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No. 7795.—Vol. L. *THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 13, 1890.* *Price One Penny.*

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

DRURY LANE. (The National Theatre.)
EACH EVENING, at 7.15, and SATURDAY NEXT, at 1.30, AUGUSTUS HARRIS'S Pantomime, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK, produced on a scale of splendour surpassing in magnificence the displays offered to the public by Mr. AUGUSTUS HARRIS in previous years, and performed by a Company of Comedians each of whom is an acknowledged attraction in himself—Messrs. Nicholls, Leno, Lauri, jun., Griffiths Brothers, Conquest, jun., Leopold Brothers, Payne (Clown), and Campbell, Misses Vernon, Faudelle, Ellicott, Ænea, Clay, and Duggan. Box-office open from 10 A.M all day. LAST THREE NIGHTS.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. BEERBOHM TREE.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, A MAN'S SHADOW, by ROBERT BUCHANAN. LAST NIGHTS. Mr. TREE as LAROQUE and LUVERSAN. Messrs. Fernandez, Kemble, C. Collette, E. M. Robson, Allan, Hargreaves Tapping, Gurney, Harwood; Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Minnie Terry, Miss Norreys, and Mrs. Tree. At 7.45, GOOD FOR NOTHING; Miss Norreys. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open 10 till 5. Pit Circle (unreserved), 2s. 6d. Gallery, 1s.
MATINEE of A MAN'S SHADOW SATURDAY NEXT and following SATURDAY, at 2.30. LAST WEEKS.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. HENRY IRVING.)
THE DEAD HEART—A Story of the French Revolution. TO-NIGHT at Eight o'clock (141st time). Mr. Henry Irving, Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Stirling, Mr. Righton; Miss Phillips and Miss Ellen Terry. Box office (Mr. J. Hurst) open daily 10 to 5. Seats can also be booked by letter or telegram. Carriages, 10.45.—LYCEUM.

CRITERION THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM.
THIS EVENING, at 8.30, OUR BOYS. (Last few nights.) Mr. Leonard Boyne, Mr. Arthur Elwood, Mr. F. W. Gardiner, Mr. H. Saker; Mesdames Olga Brandon, E. Brunton, F. (Frances, E. Vining. Preceded by, at 7.50, SWEETHEART, GOOD-BYE. Messrs. Scott Buist, H. Saker, G. Stanton, L. Chapuy; Mesdames E. Terriss, E. Brunton, E. Vining. Doors open at 7.30. N.B.—LAST MATINEE of OUR BOYS SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.30. Doors open at 2 o'clock.

GAIETY THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT, at 8 punctually, RUY BLAS AND THE BLASE ROUE. Miss Ellen Farren, Miss Sylvia Grey, Miss Linda Verner, Miss Coutend, Miss Blanche Massey, and Miss Letty Lind; Mr. Fred Leslie, Mr. Fred. Storey. Doors open at 7.30.

TERRY'S THEATRE.
(Proprietor and Lessee, Mr. EDWARD TERRY.)
(Manageress, Miss GRAHAME.)
TO-NIGHT, at 9, NEW LAMPS FOR OLD. Messrs. W. S. Penley, Bernard Gould, W. Lestocq, and F. Kerr. Mesdames Cissy Grahame, Houston, and Gertrude Kingston. At 8.15 THE PARTING OF THE WAYS. Mesdames M. A. Giffard, Helen Leyton, Rose Dearing, Oscar Adye, and J. Nelson. Doors open at 8. Carriages at 11. Box Office open 10 till 5. MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT, at 3. Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. BRICKWELL.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.
TO-NIGHT, at 9, THE BUNGALOW, by FREDERICK HORNER. 176th Performance. The greatest success of modern times. Received with roars of laughter and thunders of applause. At 8.15, ISALDA. Doors open 7.45. Messrs. C. Glenney, Yorke Stephens, Compton Coutts, Bassett Roe, Matthew Brodie, R. Stockton, and Fred Kaye; Misses Sophie Larkin, Vane Featherston, Marie Illington, Mary Jocelyn, and Cicely Richards. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 2.15. Doors open at 2.

ADELPHI THEATRE.
(A. and S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.0, LONDON DAY BY DAY. Immense success. 156th Time. Mr. George Alexander, Messrs. Marius, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, Lionel Rignold, W. L. Abingdon, Theo. Balfour, M. Bode, H. Russell, James East, W. Northcote, J. Northcote, &c.; Mesdames Alma Murray, Mary Rorke, Kate James, Charlotte Elliott, and Clara Jecks. Doors open at 7.0. THE MARRIED BACHELOR, at 7.15.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. THOMAS THORNE.)
THIS EVENING at 8.30, CLARISSA, at 7.45, MEADOW SWEET. Mr. Thomas Thorne, Messrs. T. B. Thalberg, Cyril Maude, Oswald Yorke, J. S. Blythe, Harbury, F. Grove, F. Gillmore, and Fred Thorne; Miss Winifred Emery, Mesdames Mary Collette, C. Owen, L. Bryer, F. Weyms, Lily Hanbury, and Miss Banister. MATINEE of CLARISSA SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.30.

THE GLOBE THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. R. BENSON.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8, HAMLET. Messrs. Cartwright, Benson, Black, Ross, Stuart, Greaville, Howard, Gurney, Hallard, Rosoman, Shaw, Weir, Forde, Brydone, Major, Meadows, Barwell, Phillips; Mesdames Ferrar, Selwyn, Benson. MATINEE of HAMLET TO-DAY (Thursday), at 2.15. N.B.—A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM EVERY EVENING at 8 (Thursdays and Fridays excepted) and WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY MATINEES at 2.30.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.
MASTER AND MAN.
TO-NIGHT, at 7.45, HENRY PETTITT and GEORGE R. SIMS powerful play, MASTER AND MAN, in which the following popular artists will appear:—Messrs. Henry Neville, J. H. Barnes, Robert Pateman, Brandon Thomas, Sidney Howard, Charles Dalton, Bassett Roe, Fred Shepherd, George Dalziel, E. Mayeur, E. Webster Lawson; Miss Edith Bruce, Mrs. Frank Huntley, and Miss Bella Pateman. Doors open 7.15. Commence 7.45. Box-office (Mr. A. Frye) open daily from ten till five. Seats at all the libraries.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Langtry.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8, AS YOU LIKE IT. Mrs. Langtry; Mesdames M'Neil, Lea, Lamb, Armbruster, &c.; Messrs. Cautley, Bourchier, Sugden, Everill, Fulton, Brodie, Forbes, Gay, Lewis, Canninge, Lawford, Grover, Lingham, Arncliffe, Gwynne, Yorke, &c. Doors open 7.30, carriages at 11. No fees.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. HORACE SEDGER.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, MARJORIE. Miss Phyllis Broughton, Mdme. Amadi and Miss Camille d'Arville; Messrs. C. Hayden Coffin, Joseph Tapley, Henry Ashley, Frederick Wood, Albert James, T. A. Shale, A. T. Hendon, and Harry Monkhouse. Preceded at 7.30 by ALL ABROAD. Morning Performance EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30. Telephone No. 3,700.

GARRICK THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. JOHN HARE.)
THIS EVENING, at 9, A PAIR OF SPECTACLES. Mr. John Hare, Mr. C. Groves, Mr. R. Cathcart, Mr. S. Brough, Mr. C. Dodsworth, Mr. F. H. Knight, Mr. R. Harding, Mr. Byron, Miss Blanche Horlock, Miss F. Hunter, and Miss Kate Rorke. Preceded, at ten minutes past 8, by DREAM FACES. Mr. J. Forbes Robertson, Mr. S. Brough, Mr. S. Pringle; Miss Blanche Horlock and Miss Carlotta Addison (specially engaged) will appear. Doors open 7.40. MATINEE SATURDAY, March 22, at 2 P.M. Box-office open from 10 to 5. Acting Manager, Mr. C. G. COMPTON.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.
Messrs. E. S. WILLARD and JOHN LART, Lessees and Managers. Proprietor, Mr. JOHN LANCASTER.
THIS EVENING at 8, THE MIDDLEMAN.
LAST WEEKS.
Mr. Willard, Messrs. Mackintosh, E. W. Garden, H. Cane, H. V. Esmond, Ivan Watson, Cecil Crofton, Royston Keith; Mesdames Maude Millett, Annie Hughes, E. H. Brooke, Annie Hill, St. Ange, Eva Moore, &c. Box-office now open daily, 10 to 5. Doors open 7.40. Carriages 11. Acting Manager, Mr. W. H. GRIFFITHS.—SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.

LYRIC THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. HENRY J. LESLIE.)
EVERY EVENING, at 8.20, THE RED HUSSAR. Mesdames Marie Tempest, Birdie Irving, Maud Holland, Mrs. Sidney, and Florence Dysart; Messrs. Ben Davies, Alec Marsh, Albert Christian, J. Le Hay, Frank M. Wood, and Arthur Williams. Preceded at 7.30, by WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30.

COMEDY THEATRE
TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 9 P.M., the celebrated Comedy PINK DOMINOS, adapted by JAMES ALBERY, with powerful cast, including Messrs. Herbert Standing, Alfred Maltby A. Boucicault, &c., and C. H. Hawtrey; Mesdames Goldney, Robertson, Cowell, Alma Stanley, and Rose Saker; preceded, at 8, by ONE SUMMER NIGHT, by F. W. Broughton. Box-office open daily from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. Telephone, 3,724.

COURT THEATRE.
(Proprietors, Mrs. JOHN WOOD and Mr. ARTHUR CHUDLEIGH.)
TO-NIGHT at 9, 217th performance of AUNT JACK. Mr. Arthur Cecil, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. F. Mervin, Mr. Fred Cape, Mr. A. Aynesworth, Mr. W. Phillips, Mr. F. Farren, Mr. Powell, Mr. W. Quinton; Miss Rosina Filippi, Miss Florence Wood, and Mrs. John Wood. At 8.15, TO THE RESCUE, Mr. R. Boleyn, Mr. F. Farren. Miss F. Harrington and Mrs. Phelps.
Notice.—LAST WEEKS of AUNT JACK.

AVENUE THEATRE.
(Under the Management of Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, FOOL'S MATE. At 9, DR. BILL.
Messrs. Frederick Terry, Nutcombe Gould, Benjamin Webster, George Capel, Henry Grattan, and Albert Chevalier; Mesdames Robins, Carlotta Leclercq, Marie Linden, Mary Kingsley, Gracie Murielle, Laura Graves, Edith Kenward, and Fanny Brough. Doors open 7.45.
MATINEE SATURDAY NEXT.
at 2.30. Doors open 2 o'clock. Box-office open daily from 10 till 5.
Business Manager, Mr. R. D'ALBERTSON.

ALHAMBRA VARIETY THEATRE.
"ASMODEUS," at 9 o'clock, and "OUR ARMY AND NAVY," at 10.50. Signorina, Bessone; Mdlles. Saracco, Marie, Thurgate, and Vergé, and Signor De Vincenti. Varieties by BRUET and RIVIERE, the Sisters Ethardo, Miss Annie Albu, Marvelle's Boarhounds and the Dog "Rags," the Albert and Edmunds' Troupe, Arthur Tinsley, Marie Lloyd, George English, Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, and JAMES FAWN. Open 7.45 until 11.30.

EMPIRE THEATRE.
Commence at 8. Two Grand Ballets. At 9.0 THE PARIS EXHIBITION. At 10.30, A DREAM OF WEALTH, by M. KATTI LANNER. Music by M. LEOPOLD WENZEL. Mdlles. Palladino and Bettina de Sortis, Signor Albertieri and Signorina Malvina Cavalazzi. Grand Variety Entertainment. At 10, Miss Amy Roselle will recite THE SIEGE OF LUCKNOW, specially written for her by H. SAVILE CLARKE, Esq. No free list.

ROYAL, Holborn.
GRAND HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.—G. H. Macdermott, the popular actor and vocalist; the Mannons, in a novel musical absurdity; Yosituro, the wonderful Jap; the Brantfords, American variety artists; Ottaway and Pepper; Abe Daniels, musical clown; Dora Fielding; Arthur Tinsley; Petrot, the marvellous mimic; Sam Torr; Deane Brand, operatic vocalist; Prof. Wingfield's Dogs; Ryan and Richfield; Nelly Chapman; Ottoway and Pepper; Albert and Edmund Troupe, the Elopement; James Fawn, comic; the Kellenos Troupe; Sada Grossmith; first appearance in the variety halls of Miss Kate Chard, the famous opera bouffe prima donna; F. McNish, Comedian; Marion Graham.
EVENINGS at 7.30: SATURDAY MATINEES, 2.30. Prices of admission from 6d. to £2 2s.

TO GAOL WITH THE LADY COUNCILLORS!

UNLESS we are mistaken, the lady Councillors of London are about to have offered to them such an opportunity as comes, perhaps, to one man in a generation, to one woman in many generations, of doing conspicuous and signal service in the advancement of civic liberty. There is a breezy tone about the correspondence from Miss CONS and Miss COBDEN published in another column which encourages the hope that this great opportunity will not be thrown away, and that, should the occasion be created by the legal proceedings which Sir WALTER DE SOUZA has initiated, they will not be found unequal to it. In that case, before many months are out, Miss CONS and Miss COBDEN should be in gaol.

So far, the course of events has been this. When the great Local Government Act was finally put upon the English Statutes, and people began to examine its provisions, it was seen that the House of Commons had made an important omission. The interests of those whom it represented it had carefully considered. Women, at present, are not represented, and, naturally enough, had been forgotten. Among those who were committed to the care of the new Councils, there were representatives of all those classes to which women are constantly assured that it is their mission to devote themselves—the poor, the sick in mind and body, and the young: the inmates, many of them female, of reformatory schools, workhouses, and asylums. There was plenty of "women's work" to do. But there was nothing about the women who were to do it. Happily, so complete had been the oblivion of the Legislature on the subject, that nobody had even remembered to put anything in directly forbidding women to be elected. Acting on a principle which must be credited with almost every extension of the privileges and responsibilities of the female citizen which has yet been won, advantage was taken of the happy ambiguity. Women to accept the burden, and constituencies ready to entrust them with it, were promptly found. Lady SANDHURST and Miss COBDEN were returned by triumphant majorities. The personal record of Miss CONS secured her addition by the Council to its list of County Aldermen. So ends Chapter One. Then came the turn of the BERESFORD-HOPES and the DE SOUZAS —persons against whom we do not wish to say a word of discourtesy. Their kind is as necessary to the statics of the State as the force called *vis inertiæ* is to those of the natural universe. Mr. BERESFORD-HOPE, whom Lady SANDHURST had beaten at Brixton, succeeded in reversing in the law courts the verdict of the constituency. By an adverse decision on the much-debated point of law Lady SANDHURST was ousted from the Council in his favour. The gentleman defeated by Miss COBDEN in Bow accepted the choice of the electors, and refrained from bringing an election petition against that lady. She, however, with Miss CONS, ceased after the decision in Lady SANDHURST'S case to work on the Council until the period of twelve months had elapsed after which, under the Act, no proceedings can be taken to vacate a seat. They then—as their duty to their constituencies demanded—returned to harness; and only the other day the Council proceeded to avail itself of the services of Miss COBDEN by appointing her, by a large majority, upon the Parks Committee. As for Miss CONS, she had been privately helping all the time in the capacity of a "visitor." The fact is that, all theorizing apart, the practical usefulness of the ladies in the work of the Council has converted even some of their colleagues who at first were hostile into the staunchest supporters of their cause. We do not know if Mr. BERESFORD-HOPE has taken upon himself Lady SANDHURST'S splendid work among the unhappy female lunatics. We assume that he has, and that Sir WALTER DE SOUZA is prepared to undertake the duties which have distinguished Miss CONS in connection with Baby Farms and the Housing of the Poor. We make the assumption, because these two gentlemen have determined to turn the ladies out, and they cannot, under the law, put any one else in their places. Until the dissolution of the Council Bow must be represented (as, indeed, it wishes to be represented) by Miss COBDEN or by nobody. But what they can do—what Sir WALTER DE SOUZA, who has a safer seat, has instructed Mr. BERESFORD-HOPE'S lawyer to do—is to sue the ladies for penalties as a common informer. Sir WALTER (it seems no Councillor of English extraction cared to undertake the job) is very anxious to disclaim any vindictive intention. His one desire, he assures us, in having the ladies' houses watched, the ladies themselves shadowed, and the writs shot on them as if they were absconding debtors, was to vindicate the majesty of the law. As he is also suing them, not for £5 each on a test vote, but for the maximum allowed by the case, amounting to £250 for each lady, and as the fine is divided between the court and the informer, Sir WALTER stands to make £250 out of the transaction. He will probably win his case, on the legal subtlety that, as the ladies were never duly qualified to be elected, it is impossible for twelve months from their election to elapse.

The course of the ladies is then clear. Their duty to their constituents and to their cause demands that they should choose rather to go to prison than to pay. We believe they will. Of Miss CONS we confidently expect it. The other lady may be made of less stern stuff; but she is the daughter of RICHARD COBDEN. To gaol, then, with the lady Councillors! To their cause it will mean victory assured; to themselves, inscription in that Legend of Good Women which each generation writes for itself in words no less imperishable than those of CHAUCER.

THE NEW "BATTLE OF BALLARAT."

AN INTERVIEW WITH A MINISTER OF THE TRANSVAAL ON THE CRISIS AT JOHANNESBURG.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT RECENTLY IN SOUTH AFRICA.)

"WE swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other, and fight to defend our rights and liberties." So ran the oath of the insurgent gold-diggers thirty-five years ago, who lost the Battle of Ballarat, but won no less than freedom for Australia. The Ballarat of to-day is Johannesburg. Are the Englishmen there also to have their Battle of Ballarat? I hope not. They have no such personal wrongs to resent, and every day drives a nail in the coffin of the obstructive policy by which their industry is crushed. But it must have been touch-and-go at that riot the other day. Suppose the rioters had been a little rasher, the President a thought less judicious, the armed police who intervened more recklessly handled—there would have been wild work on the Randt that day. The mob, we read, pulled down the flag flying over the Government offices. The last war that spilt blood on Transvaal soil began from just such an incident—only then it was the British flag that was insulted. The first shot fired in anger at Johannesburg the other day would have precipitated, I believe, a struggle far bloodier and more calamitous. The result of such a struggle I have elsewhere forecast. Like their prototypes of Ballarat, the surviving insurgents might live to see their ringleaders in the high offices of State; but, like them, they would first see their comrades fall around them and the day in the hand of President Kruger's citizen soldiery. "Unarmed and unorganized, they would go down before the Boers like sheep." Apart from that, the conflict would be ruin to half our hopes for South African development. It will be an immense relief, then, to others besides those who hang on the fluctuations of the share market, to hear that no fear of anything of the kind is entertained by a high authority of the Transvaal, who has been for years an acute observer of the forces at work in the Republic. The Rev. S. J. Du Toit, the father of Dutch Nationalism in Cape Colony, and now a member of the Government of the Transvaal, has been concluding a sojourn in Europe by a flying visit to London. Minister of Education in a State which spends five pounds a year on every school-child that it teaches, Mr. Du Toit holds no unimportant portfolio. But as founder of the Dutch *United Ireland* and the Dutch National League, he has influence with well-nigh every Dutch-speaking Afrikander in South Africa. As regards, then, the Anglicization of the Transvaal—that question which daily more and more rivets upon itself the eyes of the Empire—the views of a man of Mr. Du Toit's official position, natural acuteness, and personal record, are of commanding interest. That in the councils of the Transvaal he is one of those who recognize the signs of the times, and that he has already almost parted company with President Kruger over the latter's railway policy, is an open secret. It was, therefore, with the less astonishment, calling upon Mr. Du Toit with the news of the riot fresh to hand, that I listened to the remarkable frankness with which the Minister replied to my questions.

THE REV. S. J. DU TOIT

THE RATIONALE OF THE RIOT.

"Well, Mr. Du Toit, what say you to the crisis at Johannesburg? Is there to be a new Battle of Ballarat, or not?"

"Not a bit of it, my dear sir," was the emphatic answer. "They are beginning to feel the depression, and they show their feeling, naturally enough, by disorderly demonstrations. There will be no fighting."

"As regards this railway grievance, Mr. Du Toit? You are said to be in

CHIT-CHAT FROM THE CONTINENT.

THE STORY OF THE SULTAN'S STOVE.

The latest recipient at the Court of Constantinople of the Turkish "medal for art" and of the Mejidieh Order is the mason who lately put up a Russian stove in the Sultan's palace. It appears that "the Grand Turk" had fallen in love with the stove at the Russian consulate at Constantinople, and had a similar structure of bricks and tiles ordered from Odessa. The Russian labourer who was sent with it to put it up was a simple moujik, but the Sultan was so delighted with the man's skill in bricklaying, &c.—which seems to be an unknown art in Turkey as applied to the building of fireplaces—that, besides a money present of £50, he conferred the above distinctions on the peasant, on the principle of "honour to whom honour is due."

A PALL OF VIOLETS.

Violets were the favourite flowers of the late Emperor Frederick, but they might have been the special pets of the old Emperor William, so profusely was his grave in the mausoleum at Charlottenburg covered with them on the second anniversary of his death on March 9. William II. alone ordered violet wreaths at a Berlin florist's to the value of £15, and other floral tributes composed of violets arrived from all parts.

A STRANGE DISEASE.

At the Vienna General Hospital the medical officers are at present watching a curious case. The patient is a man of about fifty-four years of age, who was a navvy up till last year, when he hurt the forefinger of his left hand. The finger had to be amputated. Since then the left hand has always been in motion, and now the nervous affection has spread over the whole body, and the patient is obliged always to turn to the left side. When lying in bed he gives sudden jumps into the air like a fish when lying on dry ground. A similar case attracted recently the attention of medical men at Paris, who called the disease clownism, on account of the movements of the patient, which were not unlike the circus performances of the genus clown.

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF TOYS.

An exhibition will be opened at St. Petersburg during the first week in April which ought to be very interesting. By it the promoters intend to illustrate the history of toys, which will be shown in the primitive toys of bygone ages, arranged in graduation up to the artistic toys of the present day. The Asiatic toys are said to take a very high place among the exhibits, many of them being marvels of good taste and artistic workmanship.

A NEW SIGHT OF PARIS.

The Grévin Museum at Paris has evidently taken a leaf out of Mdme. Tussaud's book by constructing a model of the cell, at the Conciergerie, of the young Duke of Orleans. Leaning against the window, the prisoner is talking to his guide, philosopher, and friend—the Duc de Luynes. The wax models of both are said to be very good.

A HEATHENISH ARMY.

Tushkuroff, the Russian traveller and ethnologist, points out in recently published statistics that there are in the Russian army not less than 400,000 heathens and 50,000 Mahommedans, the latter forming 70 per cent. of the Russian Cossack regiments. Tushkuroff also points out, by means of further facts and figures, that Christianity is rapidly decreasing in the south-eastern parts of the empire; and the effect of having drawn attention to the matter is already becoming apparent, for official Russia is being loudly urged by the *vox populi* to make immediate efforts for the re-christianizing of the backsliders, and for bringing them back into the bosom of the Orthodox Church.

A LATE WINTER IN NORTHERN SEAS.

Serious obstacles in the traffic on the Baltic have resulted from the recent spell of frosty weather. All through the mild winter the sea had been free from ice, which is a very unusual thing in the part of the world where from November to March the inhabitants are accustomed to take sledge drives across the ice from Reval to Helsingfors; but when at the end of February the frost set in a good many vessels had to unload before they came to the ice-bound ports which were their destination. A day or two ago the cuirass of ice had only just begun to move, but the sailing boats after having wintered in the ports are beginning to show signs of activity, which is always a sure indication that winter is over.

THE ATTRACTION OF GERMAN UNIVERSITIES.

The number of foreign students at German Universities has been larger this winter than it has ever been before. Out of a total number of 29,007 students 1,930 are non-Germans, 1,384 being Europeans and 546 having come to the seats of learning from other parts of the world. Of these latter 436 are from America, 90 from Asia (mostly Japanese), 11 from Africa, and 9 from Australia. Of the European foreigners Russia sends 331, Austria-Hungary 293, Switzerland 255, Great Britain 117, Greece 49, Turkey 44, the Netherlands 42, France 37, Luxemburg 34, Roumania 34, Bulgaria 31, Scandinavia 29, Italy 27, Servia 27, Belgium 26, Denmark 5, Spain 2, and Portugal and Lichtenstein each one.

favour of cutting the Gordian knot by the State taking over the Delagoa Bay railway from the Netherlands Company."

"Yes, I still hope the State may do that. It would be cheaper in the end. It is absurd building a railway inland. There is but one way, I have always urged, of railway development—from the coast. The Boksburg line is costing three times as much as it need because that plain principle has been neglected. If only the President and the burghers would see that capital is international——"

"Will he see that? Will he meet the situation, do you think?

"I hope so. President Kruger moves slowly, but he has great native shrewdness. I have often wondered to see how he makes his natural diplomacy serve the place of education, training, everything."

GOOD NEWS OF THE RAILWAY QUESTION.

"If you are right, Mr. Du Toit, Johannesburg is near the end of its troubles. But, supposing that the President does stick to his guns about the Delagoa Bay line, and maintains his veto on any other within his boundaries, how about that second string to the bow of the sanguine Johannesburger—the extension up to the frontier of the Cape Colony line through Bloemfontein? Unless that is barred it will touch the frontier, as you know, only about forty miles away from the Randt. Will Paul Kruger have the will or the power to bar it?"

"Neither, I believe," was the welcome reply of Paul Kruger's Minister. "President Reitz is all in favour of carrying the line beyond his capital, and I know that he believes he will be able to do so. Reitz has a great hold on his Free State burghers. He is, I think, a coming force in South Africa. The secret of his power is also the secret of Paul Kruger's: he is not too far, but just far enough, ahead of the slow-moving farmers. But he clearly sees and appreciates the changes now in progress. Yes, I think in any case you may count on that railway."

"All this is good news indeed as to the railway question. If it comes true, it will prove that Paul Kruger is as shrewd a man as I took him for. But are you sure that he will act judiciously in this crisis? Any ill-advised step on the part of the Government in putting down the disturbances might set spark to powder."

"Oh, you'll see they will do very little. Something they must do—a few arrests, some assertion of public order; but the matter will be let drop as soon as possible."

"And the farmers—will they resent the insults to their flag and their President? If they begin turning out to defend Oom Paul——"

"The farmers will do nothing. They will sit still. They want to be let alone, to live out their days in peace, seeing as little of the *uitlander* as may be. If the rioters had gone and carried disorder on to their farms that would have been another matter."

HOLLANDER *v.* ENGLISH.

"Now, Mr. Du Toit, a plain question: How comes it that you are in Europe at all? Is it true, as they say at the Cape, that you have been whipping up emigrants for the Transvaal among the dregs of the population of Belgium? Are you the Peter the Hermit of a crusade of anti-English immigration?"

Mr. Du Toit smiled. "The facts," he said, "are very simple. I came to Europe on private business. I was entrusted with financial commissions by various friends. Being in France and Belgium, I was asked by a number of people who knew me to lecture on the Transvaal. I did lecture on the Transvaal as an outlet for the surplus populations of Europe. That is what I believe it to be; but in a perfectly cosmopolitan sense: if you asked me to lecture here in London I should say the same. Only on the Continent a gentleman who was much struck with the idea took it up enthusiastically and organized means for promoting emigration from Belgium. He asked for my countenance and co-operation, and of course he had it. There's the whole story."

"You profess, then, no preference for the Hollander or Belgian emigrant over any other?"

"No more than for capital from those quarters of Europe over English or any other capital; no more, indeed, than the Boers themselves have just shown by signing, with something like unanimity, a monster petition against the Hollander officials."

"I thought the idea of stemming the tide of Anglicization with a handful of broken-down Belgians savoured too much of Dame Partington's traditional mop to be entertained by a politician so acute as yourself."

STARTLING FIGURES.

"Stemming the tide of Anglicization!" exclaimed Mr. Du Toit. "Do you know how many English there are in the Transvaal to-day?"

"I should like to know very much. I have been impressing on the readers of the *Pall Mall Gazette* that the numbers have been exaggerated."

"The numbers of English from England, yes. But I think you underrated the total. I will give you my estimate. The Dutch population only musters about 70,000 heads. The burghers—the adult male citizens—are but 10,000. Now for immigrants. Johannesburg numbers about 30,000, and the Witwatersrandt as a whole, 50,000. Add another 50,000 for the other centres all over the country, Barberton, Klerksdorp, Potchefstroom, the Murchison Range, Zoutpansberg, and elsewhere. That gives you altogether about 100,000 souls, mostly English-speaking. I am sure an immense majority are English-speaking."

"What, Mr. Du Toit! Do you mean to tell me that in your opinion the Boers are outnumbered ten to one by a population largely English and mostly English-speaking? Is our predominance really so great as that?"

"In my opinion, it is."

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEME.

"Then the Anglicization of the Transvaal is indeed being realized by leaps and bounds. But tell me, is there not some obstacle to this immense majority coming into the electorate under the ordinary five years' qualification? Is there not something offensive about the oath of allegiance?"

"I can't think what. I have taken it, of course, long ago. I was born a British subject and Cape Colonist, and I only remember it as a pledge to be true and loyal to the Republic and its laws. The five years' naturalization is exactly what you have here in England. But I admit that you would expect the period to be shorter in the case of a new country all in the making."

"There is no disfranchisement of the new-comers contemplated in connection with this Second Chamber scheme, which Vice-President Smit told me is certain to be passed next session?"

"On the contrary, the Second Chamber is to satisfy their demand for representation during the few years' delay which the voting qualification involves. I confess I almost think it would be better to cut short that delay. The new Chamber will have no powers over expenditure; the Volksraad will still be imposing the heavy taxation, direct and indirect, which is complained of, and will be spending the wealth which it derives from the new-comers in ways over which they have no control. It will be taxation without representation, and the new Chamber will only serve as the organ of an agitation for the powers which are denied to it."

"That is exactly what occurred to me. But surely, Mr. Du Toit, that is not the President's idea? Surely he hopes that in some way the scheme will gain time? If it is not to be made a pretext for disfranchising the miners of the Volksraad, in what other way can it serve its end?"

"I will tell you. There is no bar excluding the qualified miner from the franchise. But he must first prove his qualification. The five years date from his registration as a subject of the Transvaal by the Landdrost. It is only lately that many miners have taken the trouble to register. Now the new Chamber will give them an influential voice as regards legislation affecting their immediate interests—the goldfields. The idea of the reactionary party is that then a great many of them will not care to take the trouble to register at all. In five years, they will say to themselves, we shall have made our pile and gone."

"APRÈS NOUS LE DÉLUGE."

"Then do you mean to say that, with these precarious exceptions, this enormous mass of English-speaking voters will presently come into the electorate?"—"I do."

"But it means a revolution—we are on the eve of a gigantic silent revolution?"—"Undoubtedly."

"How long is it to the next Presidential election?"—"Two years."

"Then does President Kruger hope to be re-elected?"—"He will very likely decline to stand."

"Paul Kruger will decline? Then who will come in? Joubert?"—"He might have done; he might by now have consolidated a strong party corresponding more or less to the 'National Liberals' in Germany. That is if he had headed an Opposition. But in office it was impossible. As I said to him once, if you want to move a chair you should not keep sitting in it. It may be that by the time that Kruger's day is past, Joubert's day will be past too."

"Then who will it be? Chief Justice Kotsé? Chief Justice De Villiers of Cape Colony? Or Young South Africa in the person of some one like Judge Esselen?"

"I think it may very likely be none of them, but some representative of the gold industry, of finance and enterprise. Some Englishman, for instance, who has long been a citizen of the Transvaal—some man like Mr. J. B. Robinson. From a pastoral republic we shall become a plutocracy. Extremes, we know, often meet. We may yet see such a man nominated by Paul Kruger. Then he will come in with an overwhelming majority."

ON THE EVE OF GREAT CHANGES.

"What! are we so near to seeing an English President of the Transvaal? And the Transvaal an English-speaking republic?"

"Yes, the demand for equal rights of language will soon receive the same recognition on behalf of English which in Cape Colony it has received on behalf of Dutch."

"And after an English-speaking republic, what say you to the Transvaal next appearing as the premier member of a Dominion of South Africa?"

"With full Home Rule, such as Cape Colony will have by then, no meddling with the native question, and some compromise about flying a flag—that is possible enough. My formula is, 'A United South Africa with British Coast Protection.'"

"Including ports, trade, foreign policy, supremacy in the interior, and the appointment of a Governor-General?"

"Of course a great deal is implied in the coast supremacy. Nothing struck me so much in Sir Hercules Robinson's article on Swaziland as his point that the creation of a port means the creation of a need for English protection."

"Then, Mr. Du Toit, you have really given up the 'last-link' and cutting-the-painter heresies of the old days, and progressed from Separation to Federal Home Rule, even as I declared in my article about the Bond?"

"That was a very fair account. As to the phrase 'under its own flag,' Hofmeyr would not have it; but I—I had to get up the steam; I had to stir up the Dutch farmer. The work is done now. But at first we had to feel our way. It was just like your Irish parallel. To-day my formula for South Africa is what I told you. Write it on the forefront of your article—'United South Africa with British Coast Protection.'"

Such was the burden of my conversation with this Minister of the Transvaal, as we sat comforting ourselves against the chilly English spring before a cheerful fire at his hotel—he as a native of South Africa, I as one but lately returned from that sunnier clime. To all who care at all for Mr. Du Toit's country, his frank avowals should be full of life and hope.

THE NEW BISHOP OF DURHAM ON HIS PREDECESSOR.

"From Strength to Strength. Three Sermons on Stages in a Consecrated Life." (Macmillan.) In these three sermons—the first preached at Bishop Lightfoot's consecration; the second when the Bishop had returned, apparently restored in health, to his diocese; the third, after his death—Dr. Westcott, the new Bishop of Durham, pays a fitting tribute to the memory of this great scholar and ruler of the Church—for he was both in a singular degree. All three sermons are admirable, but we turn with especial interest to the last. We have no wish to analyse, far less to criticise, it. No one had a better right to sum up and estimate the greatness and goodness of the Bishop than the man who was his closest friend, and who now fills his place, as far as such a place can be filled, both in English scholarship and in the See of Durham. It seems better to quote a passage in which the preacher touches a matter which must have troubled many hearts when a life so valuable, for which so much work yet remained, was brought to what seemed a premature end:—

"A life completed in the Lord! Yes, with the deepest sense of personal bereavement, I must hold that this life on which we look is a true whole. I cannot speak of it as incomplete. It is true that we confidently looked for fresh treasures of scholarship to be brought out of his accumulated stores; or more proofs of that great and vigorous administration by which, as one said to me who could speak with authority, he had made his diocese of one heart; for more counsels of calm and sober judgment in seasons of perplexity; but all these would have been only further illustrations of the nature which we knew already. The type was fixed, and recognized, and welcomed; and a noble character is more than noble works. It is an inexhaustible source of life like itself. Productiveness is measured by power of quickening, and never have I felt before as I feel now the vitality of all true work, the certainty that all true work is in one sense complete."

MR. SEXTON AND MAJOR LE CARON.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—In your issue of this date you quote Mr. Sexton as saying: "Mr. Powderley published the letter some time ago, *yet Le Caron has made no reply until to-day.*" The statement is incorrect. The alleged letter was published in the United (*sic*) one year since, and my cabled denial appeared there immediately after. The London Edition of the *New York Herald* also published it at the same time, and my emphatic denial can be found in that paper the day following its publication. That which does not exist cannot appear, and so it is with the Powderley "canard." You will find Mr. Sexton has simply been "sold."—Respectfully, HENRI LE CARON.

London, March 12.

THE BLACKBALLING AT THE ATHENÆUM.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—The blackballers of Mr. Flanagan, while disclaiming any political motive in rejecting his candidature for the Athenæum Club, prove the contrary by their own words; for they specifically state that they blackballed him on account of his share in the publication of "Parnellism and Crime," one blackballer giving it as his opinion that in doing so he had "hit below the belt." Is it not, then, disgusting cant for them to be praising themselves on their superior morality and their freedom from prejudice, when in the same breath almost they proceed to attribute bad motives to a man and to censure his political conduct? I am a staunch Home Ruler myself; and no one can reprobate more strongly than I do the conduct of the *Times* and its abettors in concocting and giving currency to that scandalous publication; but to blackball a man in a club for being concerned in a publication we condemn politically, is to be actuated by political spite, and nothing else. Of course, if those who blackballed Mr. Flanagan think that he wrote what he knew or believed to be false, the case wears a very different aspect. But then, let them have the manliness to say so, and not stab, like Pigott, with poisoned weapons, in the dark. The Tories in non-political clubs who blackball Home Rulers have at least the frankness to declare that they do so because they regard them as outside the pale of social tolerance, and as the associates and allies of criminal conspirators and assassins. I am sorry that any set of men calling themselves Liberals should have sunk below the "Tories of the baser sort" in political spite and intolerance. I am on the books of the Athenæum as a candidate; but political ostracism having once begun, what security does a Liberal aspirant to membership possess that retaliation will not be meted out to him for what, on your correspondent's own showing, was the unjust and ungenerous blackballing of Mr. Flanagan?—I am, your obedient servant, A CANDIDATE.

P.S.—It occurs to me that perhaps, after all, the real blackballers of Mr. Flanagan were Liberal Unionists and Tories, eager to avenge the irreparable injury done to their party and cause by "Parnellism and Crime."

March 10.

READERS LEAVING HOME TEMPORARILY can have the PALL MALL GAZETTE forwarded at the following rates:—Two weeks, 1s. 6d.; four weeks, 2s. SATURDAY'S SPECIAL EDITION posted in time for delivery in the COUNTRY on SUNDAY MORNING, forwarded 13s. 6d. per annum. Address, The Publisher, *Pall Mall Gazette* Office, Northumberland-street, Strand, W.C.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

We cannot take altogether as gospel the remarkable avowals which, as set forth in an interview in another column, one of Paul Kruger's Ministers has made in regard to the progress of the English-making movement in the Transvaal. An English President in two years, with the sequel of an English-speaking Republic in galloping succession, seems a prospect altogether pitched too high. At the same time, it is worth noting that one of Mr. Du Toit's prophecies has already fulfilled itself. Almost before the interview was in type came the announcement that President Kruger had publicly consented to the extension of the Cape Colony railway direct through the Free State to Johannesburg.

The contemptuous rejection of Mr. Commins's Irish Land Bill yesterday afternoon affords a prompt commentary on Mr. Goschen's virtuous indignation the other night at the idea that Land Reform in Ireland has to wait for the pressure of agitation. The proposals in the bill were for the most part obviously and admittedly just, being indeed nothing more than an attempt to restore the Land Act of 1881—especially in the matter of rack-renting of tenants' improvements—to the position it occupied before it was mutilated in the Lords and whittled away in the Courts. The principle of another proposal—that for reducing the statutory term from fifteen to seven years—was practically conceded in the Act of 1888. Indeed, some years hence—if the Tories were still in power—we should have Mr. Balfour, who by that time would have been coerced into adopting far more than yesterday's Bill, getting up and railing at the Irish members for the insufficiency of their proposals.

The virulence with which Lord Randolph Churchill is again assailed this morning by the *Standard* shows once more how little he has taken by bottling up his attack on the Commission. He abstained until Monday "to avoid calumny," but it is hard to see how he could have fared worse if he had blurted out his criticisms two years ago. The fact is, that independence of judgment is the one unpardonable sin with the present Tories. "My party, right or wrong," is their motto, and any one who is not ready to be, like dumb cattle, driven at the call of party exigencies, must be prepared to be hounded down by Lord Salisbury's organ as "a deadly foe."

Lord Salisbury's selection of delegates to the Berlin Conference is not ideal, but—bar, of course, the ludicrous appointment of Sir John Gorst—it will do. Taken all round Mr. Burnett is probably the best representative of the working-class interest that could have been found. Sir William Houldsworth knows the cotton industry and the working of the Factory Acts thoroughly well; while Mr. David Dale will be able to speak at the Conference with exceptionally good first-hand authority about Boards of Conciliation. But why Lord Salisbury has set over these experts a man with absolutely no reputation in, or qualifications for, economic discussion is a mystery.

After an unprecedented delay, the Bishopric of Durham has been filled up at last exactly as every one supposed, and most people hoped, at first. Dr. Westcott was the late Bishop's closest friend and is in many ways his exact successor. In academical repute, in scholarship, in social interests, it would be impossible to find any one better able than Dr. Westcott to carry on the episcopal succession to Dr. Lightfoot. There is only one point in which the new Bishop is at a marked disadvantage as compared with his predecessor. Dr. Lightfoot was only fifty-one when he was made Bishop. Dr. Westcott is already sixty-five. What of that, asks the *Times*, when Mr. Gladstone is eighty? But not every one has Mr. Gladstone's constitution. Our only fear is that by the time the new Bishop gets well into his work he will be past it.

In our list of "Ministers as Company Directors" in our yesterday's issue we inadvertently fell into one or two mistakes, which we hasten to correct. We gave Sir W. B. Forwood as Secretary to the Admiralty, whereas that position is held by his brother, Mr. A. B. Forwood. The latter is on the boards of the

Barranquilla Railway and Pier Company (chairman).
Cordoba and Rosario Railway Company (chairman).
Costa Rica Railway Company.
Interoceanic Railway of Mexico.

Lord Salisbury, it should also be pointed out, only draws a salary for one office, although holding two, and Lord Kintore, should of course, have been described not as Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, but as Governor of South Australia. His name, however, remains in the list of directors of the Great North of Scotland Railway.

The new arrangements for the distribution of the fleet, so far as our home waters are concerned, are very good—on paper. The Channel Fleet is henceforward to be an effective squadron of modern ships, instead of a training squadron of more or less obsolete vessels. Seagoing ironclads are also to be substituted as flagships for the former wooden hulks in the home ports. The effect of these two changes, coupled with the forces of the first-class steam reserve in the home ports, is thus described by Lord George Hamilton:—

> There will be, independently of the so-called Channel Squadron, a large force in the Channel and home waters available at very short notice for active service. The Channel Squadron is, therefore, no longer specially required for the purposes implied by its name. This name it is not proposed to alter, Portsmouth and Devonport still continuing to be the headquarters of the squadron. The Channel Squadron will, however, be available for other service if so required, and by its conversion into a powerful squadron, homogeneous in speed and coal endurance, the radius and rapidity of its action will be largely increased. . . . By distributing and grading our reserve ships we hope to ensure that the steps necessary to render them fit for sea can be taken rapidly, continuously, and without confusion, enabling us to bring up in successive lines a force at short notice more than sufficient for the protection of our home waters.

Let us hope that Lord George Hamilton's performances in practice will be as good as the hopes on paper.

In the matter of *personnel*, the most satisfactory item in Lord George Hamilton's Estimates is the increase of stokers. The shortness of skilled stokers was, as we pointed out at the time, one of the chief defects brought out by the last manœuvres. The need for making good this defect, great as it was before, becomes greater still in view of the fresh exertions to which Lord George Hamilton's memorandum calls attention for increasing the ordinary speed of the cruisers and second-class battleships.

A WHOLESOME FAMILY BEVERAGE.—ROSE'S LIME JUICE CORDIAL is entirely free of spirit, and supplies a delicious drink in water, assisting digestion, cooling and purifying the blood. Recommended by the *Lancet*. Purchasers should order ROSE'S CORDIAL, and obtain the Genuine Article.

COUNTY COUNCIL TOPICS.

I.—THE LAWYERS AND THE LADIES.

WHO is the real mover in the attempt to oust the women County Councillors, and what is the real motive for doing so? We have received the following letter from Miss Cons on the subject:—

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

DEAR SIR,—My attention has been called to a letter in your issue of yesterday denying that Sir Walter De Souza "instructed Mr. Beresford-Hope's lawyer" in the action taken against Miss Cobden and myself. All I know of the matter is that the gentleman who did us the honour to serve us with the notices in front of the Guildhall on Tuesday last, *volunteered* as his reason for doing so that "he was Mr. Beresford-Hope's lawyer," and Miss Cobden, who was by my side, can corroborate what I say. Not having the pleasure of the gentleman's acquaintance, I am unable to say how far he may have been mistaken as to his own identity. Perhaps, however, your correspondent merely wishes to imply that Mr. Beresford-Hope's lawyer was instructed *directly* by himself, and that Sir Walter De Souza's share in the concern has been limited to lending the use of his name. The letter will certainly bear this construction, which under the circumstances seems to be the more probable solution of the two. As the above-named gentleman has seen proper to go into print, I am debating in my own mind whether it would not be advisable for me to publish the correspondence which he instituted, and to which I have been obliged to reply.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

EMMA CONS.

March 11.

The following correspondence has passed between the lawyer acting in the matter and the other lady—Miss Cobden. First, the Lawyer:—

24, Lombard-street, E.C., 6th March, 1890.

MADAM,—London County Council.—Referring to the notice already served upon you on behalf of Sir Walter De Souza, I am instructed to inform you that in taking the contemplated proceedings my client is not actuated by any personal motive, and the only object is to test the legality of your position. Under the circumstances, I am to acquaint you that no action will be brought if you give my client your written undertaking to abstain in the future from appearing and voting at the meetings of the Council. Unless I hear from you, that you will give the desired undertaking, by eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning next, the 11th inst., I shall assume that you decline to do so, and shall then issue process pursuant to the before-mentioned notice.

I am, Madam, your obedient servant,

Miss Jane Cobden. ARTHUR A. TILLEARD.

In other words, "give up the whole point, and we'll say no more about it." To which the Lady with caution:—

10, Hereford-square, S.W., 7th March, 1890.

SIR,—I have duly received your letter of yesterday offering that if I will promise by eleven o'clock next Tuesday to abstain in future from appearing and voting at Council meetings, Sir W. De Souza will abandon his action against me. Sir Walter De Souza has overlooked the fact that the Parks Committee has recommended that I should be elected a member of that body, and my election will probably take place to-day. I should be glad to know whether his offer would leave me free to attend that committee. I also understood that last Tuesday he merely objected to Miss Cons and myself voting on the Council, and said he was willing for us to attend if we did not vote. May I ask whether he is prepared still to adhere to this offer? On receiving your reply I shall be glad to communicate further with you.

I am, yours truly,

Arthur A. Tilleard, Esq. JANE COBDEN.

Sure enough Miss Cobden was elected on the Parks Committee, by a majority of nearly three to one. But, says the Lawyer:—

24, Lombard-street, March 7, 1890.

MADAM,—London County Council.—In reply to your letter I send you overleaf a copy of a letter which I have to-day addressed to Miss Cons on the subject. I think you will find this sufficiently answers the questions you raise, as they are identical with those mentioned by Miss Cons.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

Miss Jane Cobden. ARTHUR A. TILLEARD.

[COPY.]

24, Lombard-street, E.C., 7th March, 1890.

MADAM,—London County Council.—I have seen Sir Walter De Souza upon your letter of yesterday's date. He states that he sent you no message such as you refer to, but as a matter of courtesy offered to allow you to see the opinion of Mr. Bosanquet, Q.C., a copy of which was handed by my client to Sir V. K. Barrington for this purpose, and Sir V. K. Barrington quite understood that there was no vindictive or personal feeling in the matter. I am to inform you that Sir Walter De Souza expresses no opinion as to your remaining upon committees. Whether your retention upon committees, however, would be legal is a matter for your own consideration, and that of your advisers, and I must ask you to let me have a definite reply to my letter of yesterday on or before the time mentioned therein.—I am, Madam, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR A. TILLEARD.

To which the Lady, gallantly:—

10, Hereford-square, South Kensington, S.W., March 9, 1890.

SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter of March 7, and in reply to it I beg to say that I must decline to give Sir Walter De Souza any guarantee whatever that I will abstain from appearing and voting at the meetings of the London County Council. I have been advised that my present position on the Council is a legal one; and Mr. W. H. Smith has stated in the House of Commons that the Council is legally consituted as it now exists.—I am yours truly,

Arthur Tilleard, Esq. JANE COBDEN.

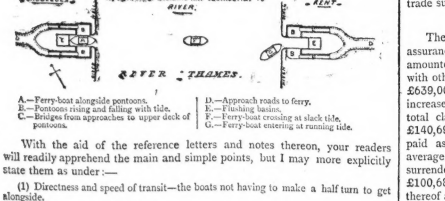
On Tuesday, as they were going from the Council meeting, both ladies were served ("not vindictively," of course) with writs suing them for the maximum penalties allowed by the Act. We will only add here that the plaintiff's claim amounts to £250—£50 each for five votes, the penalties sued for being under the Statute 51 and 52 Vict., cap. 41, 45 and 46 Vict., cap. 30, sect. 41, incorporated therewith.

II.—FERRY *v.* TUNNEL AT BLACKWALL.

Mr. J. G. Rhodes, L.C.C. for West Southwark, writes to us as follows on the vexed question of the below-bridge communication, which comes up for settlement at an adjourned meeting of the Council to-morrow:—

For last Friday's debate—again adjourned to next Friday—in the London County Council I had a "cartoon" sketch prepared, showing a constructional arrangement for a ferry, the adoption of which would do away with all obstruction to the river arising from pontoons in the tideway, &c.

I beg leave to submit herewith a reduced sketch (to the scale of 300 feet to the inch), inviting the insertion of same along with this letter.



A.—Ferry-boat alongside pontoons.
B.—Pontoons rising and falling with tide.
C.—Bridges from approaches to upper deck of pontoons.
D.—Approach roads to ferry.
E.—Flushing basins.
F.—Ferry-boat crossing at slack tide.
G.—Ferry-boat entering at running tide.

With the aid of the reference letters and notes thereon, your readers will readily apprehend the main and simple points, but I may more explicitly state them as under:—

(1) Directness and speed of transit—the boats not having to make a half turn to get alongside.

(2) Consequent security for boats.

(3) Convenient "on" and "off" for vehicular traffic, as length of shore bridges will give any desired (easy) gradient, while the vehicles need never turn on the deck, the course being "on" one side, "off" the other.

(4) The boats, purposely designed in detail, will work well fitted either as disconnecting paddles or twin double screws.

(5) The ferry stations might, if thought well, be roofed over, as is a railway station.

Omitting (5), the costs of such a ferry would be about £150,000 (the one at Woolwich cost £125,000, and that at Greenwich—a private company—about £110,000), and the annual working expenses, expressed as capital, about £150,000 more. The utmost cost, clearly and easily estimated beforehand with a certainty of result, would thus be about one-tenth of what competent judges consider it likely that the proposed tunnelling would come to. About the completion of the tunnelling—practically its present possibility—competent judges entertain the gravest doubts. It is objected that much property has been acquired in view of the tunnel, and that this outlay would prove to have been "wasted" in the ferry case. Not so, however; that property, which has cost about £190,000, would, on the contrary, be saved from "tunnel" destruction, and, moreover, enhanced in value, if there be any virtue in the making of effective trans-Thames communication at this point—as there undoubtedly is.—Your obedient servant,

7, *Southwark-street, S.E., March* 8, 1890. JOHN G. RHODES.

*A PHILOSOPHICAL NOVEL.**

THERE are novels that derive all their interest and importance, be the same more or less, from their story alone; and there are novels that owe a large part of their attractions to the fact that they are written by this, that, or the other recognizable personage. The former are mere circulating library tales: the latter partake somewhat of the character of manifestoes. And it is to this last class that Mr. Simon's very remarkable first essay in fiction naturally belongs. As he dedicates his book to his father, Sir John Simon—the "Mr. Serjeant Simon" who sat so long as member for Dewsbury, and "member for Jamaica" in the House of Commons—it would be mere affectation to overlook the fact that Mr. Simon is by birth and creed a Jew, and a Jew brought up in the midst of political and social life of a sort which has been open to his race for little more than half a century. In some respects, though only in some, Mr. Simon's attitude thus reminds us of Disraeli's early novels; but there is an important difference. Disraeli was from beginning to end a born scoffer: he had no faith—except in himself and his own future: and no enthusiasm—except a certain almost egotistical regard for the ancient stock of which he was personally so distinguished an ornament. He was spoilt for a Jew, and unfitted for a Christian; and his novels lack that convincing touch of sincerity which alone can make their genre a satisfactory or attractive one. We feel throughout he is laughing in his sleeve at us. Mr. Simon, on the other hand, is profoundly inspired by the deepest ethical and religious emotion: he is so much in earnest, indeed, that he seldom lets his real sense of humour have free play: he moves entirely on that high philosophical and political plane which requires to be relieved at times by a lighter touch—a touch our author is perfectly able, but seldom willing, to add to it.

The story, as a story, lacks human interest. What little thread of love or plot runs through it fails to convince us of its first-hand reality. In spite of its abundant knowledge of the world and of political life, the book is nevertheless essentially the book of a religious recluse—a recluse who lives and moves in the very thick of contested elections and London drawing-rooms, but who remains at heart a thinker and a dreamer still. Mr. Simon is an Israelite without guile who believes to-day in the mission of Judaism; and his pages are lighted up by the intense conviction of an earnest soul which holds religion to be, even in our modern world, the very central core and reality of the universe. Not that "The World and the Cloister" could for a moment be described as a novel of Jewish life; on the contrary, the incursions of Judaism into its pages are rare and incidental, and the greater part of the work concerns itself with the fortunes of a great Catholic lady, the Duchess of Boughton, and her somewhat free-thinking but deeply religious ward, Roderick Hugenot. The sympathy which Mr. Simon shows with the better phases of Catholic thought is itself a proof of his own wide catholicity. Altogether, his book is a striking one, and we shall expect to get better books still from the same pen hereafter. In this confident expectation, we will venture to give Mr. Simon two pieces of advice for future volumes. He should not keep quite such good company throughout; readers tire of too many hours at a stretch in the very best society: they long to escape occasionally from peers and peeresses and the lobby of the House to a quiet pipe and a little free-and-easy talk in less distinguished circles. And he should sometimes allow himself to be simply funny; to give natural character-sketches of odder people—in a word, he should condescend to the weakness of ordinary humanity.

* "The World and the Cloister." By Oswald John Simon. 2 vols. (Chapman and Hall.)

City Notes.

COTTON SPINNING AND BI-METALLISM.

In view of the forthcoming parliamentary discussion on the currency question from the cotton spinners' point of view—Mr. Hoyle, M.P., and Sir W. H. Houldsworth, M.P., being largely interested in the cotton industry—it may be well to state that at the present moment a considerable development of spinning as distinct from weaving is going on. Here is a list of cotton-spinning mills actually in course of erection:—

Beal Company	100,000 spindles.	Accrington Company ...	45,000 spindles.
Ruby ,, ...	70,000 ,,	Howe Bridge ,, ...	76,000 ,,
Lion ,, ...	120,000 ,,	North ,, ...	70,000 ,,
Osborne ,, ...	42,000 ,,	Barlow and Jones	80,000 ,,
Richmond Company ...	66,000 ,,	King and Sons.....	70,000 ,,
Standard ,, ...	120,000 ,,	Ashton Bros. and Co....	50,000 ,,
Palmer ,, ...	80,000 ,,		
May ,, ...	30,000 ,,	Total	1,019,000

Most of these mills will be working before the close of the year, in fact some of them are almost ready for commencing operations. The increase of spindles will be about a fortieth part of the present working machinery in England. Further, the results of the past three months' working of several limited spinning companies are interesting, viz.:—

Company.	Spindles.	Profit.	Div.
Shaw	75,000	£1,505	10
Thornham	80,000	1,980	10
Crawford	157,000	4,988	10
Arkwright	75,000	2,641	15
Gladstone	84,588	1,953	10
Commercial.....	62,894	1,256	—

Company.	Spindles.	Profit.	Div.
Star	103,536	£1,890	10
Woodstock	81,876	608	—
Higginshaw.....	91,600	2,295	10
Duchess	73,012	1,545	10
North Moor.....	76,596	1,440	10

The foregoing figures speak for themselves. They do not indicate a state of trade such as bi-metallists would make the country believe.

TWO ASSURANCE SOCIETIES' REPORTS.

The Legal and General Life Assurance Society effected last year new assurances under 600 policies for £777,392. The new premiums thereon amounted to £31,942, of which £4,371 was paid away for the reassurance with other offices of £138,360, leaving £27,570 as the new premiums on £639,002. The total net premium income amounted to £166,477, an increase of £15,620 on that of 1888, and £23,779 on that of 1887. The total claims amounted to £142,541, caused by 77 deaths, as against £140,697 in 1888, caused by 78 deaths. This sum included £33,016, paid as bonus additions to policies assuring £80,425, showing the large average increase of 41 per cent., although in many cases bonuses had been surrendered for cash or reduction of premium. The total assets, increased by £100,699, amounted at the 31st of December to £2,372,277, the investments thereof at that date yielding an average rate of £4 4s. 8d. per cent.

The Equity and Law Life Assurance Society's business for the past year amounted to £511,172 under 473 policies, of which £470,385 had been retained by the society. The amount of new premiums, after deducting reassurance premiums, was £18,286. The total assurances in force at the end of the year, after deducting reassurances, was £5,468,937, the premiums on which amounted to £167,275. The society's funds now amount to £2,315,035, having been increased by the sum of £154,696.

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THE QUEEN'S ARRIVAL IN LONDON.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice, attended by Colonel the Hon. H. Byng and Colonel the Hon. W. Carington, and the ladies in waiting, left Windsor Castle at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock this morning for London. The Royal party drove to the Windsor station of the Great Western Railway, where they were received by Mr. Burlinson, traffic manager, Mr. Alfred Higgins, divisional superintendent of the London district, and Messrs. Spagnoletti and Armstrong. The weather was fine. The Palace guards were mustered on the hill, and a number of spectators assembled in the streets during the departure. The Queen and Princess travelled over the Great Western Railway past Slough, West Drayton, and Southall: and on arriving at Paddington shortly before noon drove under escort to Buckingham Palace.

Prince Henry of Battenberg travelled in the Royal saloon which is kept at Slough for the Queen's use. Sir Henry Ponsonby, Viscount Bridport, Sir Fleetwood Edwards, Lady Biddulph, Dr. Reid, and other members of the Court preceded her Majesty, and came to town by the half-past ten o'clock Great Western train from Windsor. The Marquis and Marchioness of Granby, the Postmaster-General, Mr. Balfour, and Sir Henry James returned to London at the same time.

A WILL MADE AFTER A DRINKING BOUT.

Sir James Hannen had before him a will suit relating to the property of Mr. Richard Inskip, a contractor of Islington, Staffordshire, who died possessed of £19,000. A remarkable feature of the case was that the will was executed after a drinking bout, and that subsequently the deceased became insane and was confined in an asylum, where he died.

TO RUN TRAM CARS BY TIDAL POWER.

A Dalziel's telegram from Boston says:—A wonderful invention is announced to have been made, which, by the utilizing of the rise and fall of the tide, produces power 75 per cent. cheaper than any system known. The inventor, Mr. H. B. Rankin, proposes with his apparatus to light the city of Boston by electricity, run tramcars, and work the machinery of every plant in the city. The apparatus is simple in contrivance, and a company has been formed to take over the patent and carry out the above objects.

THE EXPLOSION AT NOBEL'S EXPLOSIVES FACTORY.

Colonel A. Ford, in his report on the circumstances attending the explosion which occurred at the factory of Nobel's Explosives Company Limited, near Falkirk, in November last, says he is of opinion that the company made the best possible arrangements in their factory to meet the conditions of their manufacture, and that no blame is attached to them or to their manager. In respect of the accident, in view of the risk to the work people in the packing shed, it was proposed to resume the process of sieving, and thus all chance of a similar accident will, it may be hoped, be obviated.

THE CONTEST IN AYR BURGHS.

The writ for the Ayr Burghs election was received by Sheriff Brand, the returning officer in this instance. The date provisionally fixed for the nomination of candidates and for the polling will be adhered to. These dates are the 20thf inst. for tee nominations, and 25th for the polling. The result will be declared on the 26th inst.

DINNER TO LIEUTENANT PRINCE GEORGE OF WALES.

Lieutenant Prince George of Wales, R.N., was entertained to dinner at Portsmouth last night by the officers of the Royal yacht, on his nomination to the command of the new gunboat *Beagle*. A number of the lieutenants from the gunnery and torpedo training establishments were invited to meet him. In replying to the toast of his health, the Prince expressed his satisfaction at his appointment, and announced that the ship was going to the North America and West India station. Lieutenants Fortescue, Startin, Burrows, Sir Charles Cust, Gairdner, Heathcote, Hamilton, Dechair, Hornby, De Lisle, Browing, Limpus, and others were present.

Mr. Patrick W. Phelan, the Irish Nationalist, is dead.—*Reuter.*

Mr. I. S. Leadham has been adopted by the Altrincham Division Liberal Association as the Liberal candidate for the division.

Twenty delegates of the Pan-American Congress have accepted Mr. Blaine's invitation to make a tour in the Southern States.—*Reuter.*

United Ireland says:—Mr. Smith Barry purposes asking the Vice-Chancellor to prevent his tenants selling their produce elsewhere than at his market scales.

The passengers to New York from Southampton to-day by the North German Lloyd steamer *Saale* include Mr. Barnum.

The body of Roland Leach, the missing commercial traveller from New York, has been found in the lake at Chicago.—*Dalziel.*

It has been ruled that Part 2 of the Leaseholders' Enfranchisement Bill, providing compensation for *bonâ fide* improvements which add to the letting of the premises, does not fall within the title of the measure.

FOURTH EDITION.

THE DISTURBANCES AT JOHANNESBURG.

FORMATION OF A "POLITICAL REFORM ASSOCIATION."

A Johannesburg telegram to Reuter says:—Three arrests have been made here in connection with the recent disturbances. The prisoners are charged with high treason, and have been conveyed to Pretoria. Great excitement prevails. A large public meeting has been held, at which it was resolved to establish a "Political Reform Association." The arrests were strongly condemned, and the association will arrange for the defence of the prisoners.

THE IMPRISONMENT OF THE DYNAMITER DALY.

A MEETING PROCLAIMED.

The Roman Catholic Bishop O'Dwyer, in a letter to the mayor of Limerick with reference to the demonstration of Sunday next to demand a public inquiry into the prison treatment of John Daly, impresses on the people that care should be taken to avoid language that, even by implication, expresses the slightest toleration of the abominable and murderous crime of dynamitism. The police have notified the railway companies that the meeting will be proclaimed.

CANADA VERSUS THE UNITED STATES.

A CONTRAST TO THE ADVANTAGE OF CANADA.

Mr. Joseph Tasse, a late supporter of the Government in the Canadian Parliament has issued an address to the electors of Sherbrooke, Quebec, which is exciting a great deal of attention in political circles. Mr. Tasse draws a contrast between the institutions of Canada and those of the United States greatly to the latter's disparagement. He says:—"Our institutions rest upon the solid basis of responsible government which is not the case in America. As regards material progress we have constructed as many miles of railway as the Americans in proportion to population, and we have thrown three bridges across the St. Lawrence, which are the wonder of the civilized world." Alluding to social advantages, Mr. Tasse, who is himself a Catholic, says: "While the United States boast of their religious equality, it is a significant fact that there have only been two Catholic members in the Cabinet at Washington since the foundation of the American Government, although the Catholic population of the United States numbers ten million souls, and for thirty years they have been without a representative in the Supreme Court." In further support of his contention Mr. Tasse proceeds to quote a number of statistics, and adds: "The different States of the Union receive no subsidy from the general government, whereas our province, Quebec, receives every year 1,250,000 dols. from the Canadian Treasury. The province of Quebec if annexed to the United States would have to pay the cost of construction and maintenance of the canals just in the same way as the State of New York, which has paid 75,000,000 dols. for that object. Annexation would increase Quebec's expenses by 3,000,000 dols. and diminish her revenue by 2,250,000 dols, which would amount to a net loss of 5,000,000 dols. The province of Quebec is progressing with more rapid strides than the States of Maine, Vermont, or New Hampshire. The increase in her population in the years between 1870 and 1880 was 14 per cent., that of New Hampshire 9 per cent., of Maine 4 per cent., and of Vermont 1 5-10 per cent."—*Dalziel's Agency.*

MISS HUNTINGTON AND MR. AUGUSTUS HARRIS.

It is rumoured that Mr. Augustus Harris, having vindicated in the courts the sacredness of theatrical contracts, has agreed to a compromise with Miss Agnes Huntington under the terms of which she pays the Carl Rosa company £1,000 and all the law costs to be released from her contract. This permits her to fulfil her contract with C. J. Abud to undertake a tour in the United States in the opera of "Paul Jones."—*Dalziel's Agency.*

THE MURDER OF MR. BENWELL.

A Central News telegram from New York to-day says:—The examination of Reginald Birchall charged with the murder of Mr. Benwell has been concluded, and the accused committed to prison to await his trial. His wife will remain at her hotel in custody of a constable for eight days, when she will be released unless evidence is produced against her.

MR. ABBEY ON MISS MARY ANDERSON'S FUTURE.

In an interview just published, Mr. Henry E. Abbey, the theatrical manager declined to enter into any particulars in regard to the arrangement he had made with Miss Anderson, but left it to be inferred that his existing relations with the celebrated actress were of the most cordial nature. He added:—"I shall be glad to see Mary Anderson married. After a year of wedded life she will be a greater actress than ever, and will play with intense feeling parts which she at times has been condemned as portraying with icy coldness."—*Dalziel's Cable Agency.*

MR. PARNELL AND THE FORGED LETTERS.

Mr. Parnell has drafted a motion for a Select Committee to inquire into the origin and history of the forged letters, and the circumstances that attended their purchase and publication. He will give notice of it almost immediately, and will, with the support of Mr. Gladstone, demand a day for its discussion.—*Leeds Mercury.*

ANOTHER FRANCO-GERMAN FRONTIER INCIDENT.

A Central News telegram from Paris says:—The *Dix Neuvième Siècle* publishes a telegram from Belfort stating that a Frenchman who had crossed the frontier has been arrested by German forest rangers on a charge of poaching. The journal states that there is no ground whatever for the accusation.

CHARGES OF BRIBERY AGAINST NEW YORK OFFICIALS.

Mayor Grant, of New York, has been subpœnaed by the State Senate investigating committee into the alleged municipal corruptions. The grand jury have found indictments against Deputy-Sheriff McGomgal and James Keating, the warder of Ludlow-street gaol, on the charges of bribery and other corrupt actions. Bail has been fixed at 10,000 dols. for each of the accused officials.—*Dalziel.*

MEMORIAL TO THE REV. AUBREY MOORE.

The Bishops of Oxford, Lincoln, Salisbury, and Chester, the Dean of St. Paul's, the Vice-Chancellor, Sir J. R. Mowbray, M.P., Mr. J. G. Talbot, M.P., Mr. H. H. Gibbs, Sir James Paget, many heads of houses and professors have formed themselves into a committee to present his portrait to Keble College, and to found a studentship to bear his name. The Dean of Chichester, preaching last night at St. Stephen's, South Kensington, said that at his death the face of Mr. Aubrey Moore "was transfigured with a wonderful glory."

PROFESSOR DRUMMOND'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA.

Professor Henry Drummond leaves England to-day for Melbourne in response to the invitation from the students in the University of that city to labour for a time in their midst. The Professor expects to be absent about six months, and intends, if possible, to visit Tokio University, Japan, on his way home. He is taking with him the cap and belt and other accoutrements of the Boys' Brigade, for the purpose of giving that organization a start in the colony.

THE "ORDINARY DEGREE" AT CAMBRIDGE.

From Cambridge comes the following appeal:—"I trust that those non-resident members of the Senate who propose sending their sons to this university with a hope of their attaining to the 'Ordinary Degree' will attend in the Senate House on Thursday next at two P.M. (to-day) and vote 'placet' to Grace I.—viz., 'That there be some general examination for the ordinary degree.'—I am Sir, your obedient servant, E. H. GRIFFITHS, 12, Parkside, Cambridge."

SOUTH AFRICAN BLUE-BOOK.

Further correspondence on the subject of Zululand and adjacent territories is published to-day in the form of a bulky Blue-book of 417 pages. The despatches are brought down to October 19, 1889.

REPRIEVE OF ELIZABETH MAPP.

The governors of Strangeways gaol, Manchester, this morning received formal intimation of the reprieve of Elizabeth Mapp, who was sentenced to death at the recent assizes for the murder of her illegitimate child.

THE GREAT DISPUTE IN THE COAL TRADE.

PROPOSED COMPROMISE.

One of the most largely attended and important conferences ever held connected with the Yorkshire coal trade sat for six hours at Barnsley yesterday to consider the crisis in the wages question. An unusual interest was taken in the proceedings, the town being thronged with coalowners and merchants from all parts. Mr. Cowey, president of the Yorkshire Miners' Association, presided, Mr. Pickard, M.P., and other officials attending. The following resolution was ultimately passed:—"In order that the present wage deadlock may pass away, we hereby agree that if owners will agree to grant 5 per cent. advance now and 5 per cent. on July the 1st, the present wage question be settled; but if owners refuse the advance in this manner, tools be brought out on Saturday." The resolution was telegraphed to the Owners' Federation in London, and will be submitted to a miners' conference at Manchester to-day for their approval.

A conference of miners' delegates, attended by 165 representatives from Lancashire collieries, was held yesterday afternoon at Wigan to discuss the wages question. Resolutions were passed regretting that the conference in London had failed to arrive at a satisfactory settlement, and deciding that should the forthcoming Manchester conference agree upon a stoppage, the Lancashire notices expiring on Saturday should be adhered to, and nothing less than a 10 per cent. advance accepted.

Six of the largest collieries in Nottinghamshire ceased work yesterday. More than four thousand men and boys have consequently left their employment, and these are all resolved to stand firm. A similar spirit prevails at the other collieries in the county, at most of which the men's notices will expire on Saturday, when there is little doubt that they also will come out on strike unless the advance for which they are now asking should previously have been conceded. This advance amounts to about 2d. per ton.

DROWNING OF SIR HOWARD ELPHINSTONE.

A Reuter's telegram from Teneriffe to-day announces the fact that Major-General Sir Howard Elphinstone, treasurer and comptroller of the Duke of Connaught's household, who, together with Lady Elphinstone and his daughter, were passengers from Plymouth to Teneriffe, on board the New Zealand Shipping Company's steamer *Tongariro* was swept overboard and drowned on the night of the 8th inst.

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

THE KAISER DELIGHTED.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* says he hears that the Emperor, so far, is delighted with the readiness with which the various Governments, especially that of France, have responded to his invitation to the Labour Conference, and nothing will be left undone to impress all the delegates with the graciousness of his Majesty and his sense of the compliment implied by their presence in his capital.

THE ENGLISH DELEGATES.

As already announced, it is believed that Sir John Gorst and Mr. Burnett, of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, are going to represent the British Government in Berlin. Sir William Houldsworth, M.P., and Mr. David Dale, of Darlington, who has been a recognized leader in labour questions in the North of England, and was chiefly instrumental in forming the Conciliation Board for the North of England iron trade, of which he was for many years president, have also been asked to attend the Congress.

THE GERMAN SOCIALISTS AND THE RESCRIPTS.

One of the German Social Democratic leaders has stated that if the social reforms were taken in hand in the Reichstag in accordance with the principles laid down in the Rescripts, then the Social Democrats would vote in their favour. That they would refuse them as insufficient, as in the case of the Sick Fund and Old Age Insurance Bill, was not probable. Thus far the Social Democrats were ready to support the Emperor.

HOW THE CONGRESS WILL WORK.

It is understood that the Labour Conference will not last longer than a fortnight, so that it will be over before Easter. The principal work will be done in committees, which will be appointed at the first sitting. These committees will then submit their reports, which will be disposed of in five or six sittings. The German Government will probably postpone laying its own Labour Bills before the Reichstag till the Governments of the Powers represented have made up their minds concerning the acceptance or rejection of the resolutions passed at the Conference. M. Jules Simon thinks the German Government showed a courtesy to which it would ill become France to be insensible in inviting M. Dumaine, First Secretary of the French Embassy, to be Secretary to the Conference.

THE ITALIAN, GERMAN, AND DUTCH DELEGATES.

Senator Boccardo, Deputy Ellena, and Signor Bodio, Director-General of the Statistical Bureau, left last night for Berlin to represent Italy. The following ten delegates have been selected to represent Germany:—Baron Berlepsch, Prussian Minister of Commerce; Dr. Kopp, Prince Bishop of Breslau; Herr Magdeburg, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Commerce; Herr Reichardt, Chief of the Politico-Commercial Department of the Foreign Office; Herr Lohmann, Privy Councillor; Herr Hauchecorne, mining manager; Herr Landmann, Bavarian Representative in the Federal Council; Herr Heyl, Councillor of Commerce; Herr Koechlin, manufacturer; Herr Kayser, Councillor of Legation. M. Van der Hoeven, Dutch Ambassador to Germany; M. Snyder Van Wissekerke, Referendary in the Department of Justice; and M. Struve, Government Inspector of Labour, have been appointed to represent the Netherlands.

OUR DELEGATES TO THE LABOUR CONFERENCE.

WHAT LABOUR LEADERS THINK.

Interviewed by one of our representatives this morning, Mr. Robert Austin, the venerable secretary of the Associated Society of Engineers, said he did not think the labour interests were fairly represented by the election of the Government—the classes were too much in evidence. The only delegate he was really satisfied with was Mr. Burnett, the Lobour correspondent of the Board of Trade his predecessor at the engineers office. Although Burnett was official, still he had sufficient confidence in him to disbelieve that he would betray the interests of truth. Mr. David Dale was next best. Mr. Dale had a good reputation as a mediator between masters and men, and no doubt would be a useful representative. Worfing-men did not wish to swamp the delegation with their nominees, and therefore he was not inclined to grumble at the appointment of Sir William Houldsworth, the Manchester merchant, who, so far as he knew, was a very fair employer, and would be a good representative of his class. But it was quite another thing with Sir John Gorst. This Tory lawyer had no *locus standi* at all. He was unaware that Sir John Gorst was identified with the interests of either employers or employed. The only ground, he supposed, for the the Government's ridiculous choice in this respect was that Sir John was a political partisan. He should like to have seen a man like Applegarth, secretary of the Associated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, sent to the conference. As it was, Burnett was the only man who could possibly understand what the trades unions really wanted.

Next our representative called at the office of the United Friendly Society of Ironfounders of Great Britain. Mr. Hey was out, but the Assistant Secretary expressed his pleasure at the appointment of Mr. Dale, whom all would have confidence in. That he was pleased with Burnett's appointment goes without saying. He knew nothing for or against Sir William Houldsworth, and laughed at Sir John Gorst's nomination. The presence of delegates at the Berlin Conference would be a farce as far as working men were concerned, if they had no confidence in the British representatives.

Mr. Broadhurst is out of town; as also are Mr. Drummond and Mr. Shipton.

In one quarter, at any rate, Sir J. Gorst's appointment was approved on the ground that it is likely to give pleasure and offend nobody. It is still remembered our representative was assured, that when the Employers' Liability Act was brought forward Sir John moved an amendment making the Government as large employers of labour come under the Act, and that, notwithstanding he was hard pressed by friends of the bill to withdraw his amendment, he persisted in pushing it to a division, when it was lost. And it is understood that, as representative of Chatham, he still holds the opinion that the men in the Government dockyards should have the same advantages which the Government insists upon for other workmen.

THE AUSTRALIAN FLEET.

Owing to alterations which it has been found necessary to make in the construction of the new Australian cruisers, *Pandora*, *Phœnix*, *Psyche* and *Persian*, and *Pelorus*, they will not be ready to sail for the colonies before August next. The *Pandora* will make her preliminary trials from the Tyne to-day.

THE COLLIERY EXPLOSION IN SOUTH WALES.

RECOVERY OF THE BODIES.

THE DISCOVERY OF AN UNLOCKED LAMP.

The full extent of the disaster at the Morfa Colliery is now known. After careful inquiry the officials put the number of lives lost at 87. Sixty-eight of the men were married, three were widowers, and the remaining 16 were single. The number of children left fatherless by the disaster is 176, of whom 121 are under 13 years of age.

LATEST NEWS.

A correspondent telegraphing this morning says:—All through the night the work of levelling falls and propping up the roof of the pit in order to reach the other bodies, has been proceeded with. News of the discovery of an unlocked Mnsseler lamp by an overman's side has caused great excitement in the district. Only eleven bodies have so far been recovered, the coal falls still presenting gigantic obstacles. All the fire is now extinguished, however. The explorers are working with greater spirit and determination. More bodies are expected to-day.

STACKS OF BLACK COFFINS.

Already there are stacks of black coffins lying ready to receive the remains of the men as they are brought up. The rumours which have been current that the mine is haunted probably had their origin from the fact that the workings extend to the sea, and the rumbling noise is such as is frequently heard in underground workings when the sea is rough. One miner is said to have been so frightened by these noises that three weeks ago he refused to go underground, and continued to the last firm in his refusal, saying that he heard similar noises when the explosion of 1870 occurred, and he had a presentiment that a like disaster could not be far off again.

RELIEF FOR THE SUFFERERS.

Though the mortality is so much less than that at the Llanerch explosion, it is remarkable that in the present disaster more wives have been made widows. Not less than £24,000 will probably be required to meet all exigencies arising from this occasion. Last night £5 per head for the bodies brought up was distributed for funeral expenses by the secretary of the permanent fund. A relief fund has been opened at the branch of the National Bank of Wales at Port Talbot.

OPENING OF THE INQUEST.

The inquest on the bodies of Clatworthy, Weeks, Morgan, and Heycock, the four men killed by the explosion, was opened at Aberavon yesterday by Mr. Cuthbertson, coroner. The coroner said he had communicated with the Secretary of State, and the latter had replied stating that he would take care that no effort was spared to ascertain the causes and circumstances of the explosion. Evidence of identification having been given, the inquest was adjourned until April 1.

LORD R. CHURCHILL AND THE TORY PARTY.

TALK OF "DRUMMING OUT."

As the House rose last evening there was a rumour that Lord R. Churchill has decided to throw himself upon his constituents, and take an election upon his speech and vote of Tuesday night, but up to the present the rumour has not been confirmed.

A Colchester correspondent telegraphs:—There appears every probability that the meeting which Lord R. Churchill was to have addressed at Colchester on the 26th inst. will be indefinitely postponed, in consequence of the dissatisfaction aroused by his lordship's utterances on Tuesday in the House of Commons. A leader of the Conservative party in Colchester has announced his intention of moving a vote of censure on Lord Randolph Churchill if the meeting is held at all.

It is reported that Mr. Jennings did not decide precipitately to break with Lord Randolph Churchill and withdraw his motion. He first consulted with Mr. Hanbury, and that gentleman expressed approval of the course which was subsequently taken by his hon. friend. Lord Randolph Churchill was at the House of Commons yesterday, but Mr. Jennings was not observed in his place.

"I hear on the authority of one of his friends," writes the lobby representative of the Central News, "that Lord Randolph Churchill intends to go abroad, and will probably be absent during the greater part of the session. I hear that he complains bitterly of the habit which people have fallen into of misrepresenting and misunderstanding his motives. There was nothing in his opinion in Tuesday's incident to have caused Mr. Jennings to 'wax into such a pet.' Lord Randolph, in fact, now declares that his speech did not trend an eighteith part of an inch beyond the line which was agreed upon by the authors of the 'rider' motion. Mr. Jennings himself privately admitted the unconstitutional character of the tribunal which Lord Randolph on Tuesday denounced; but, said his lordship, 'We have been too much like the two Kings of Brentford—smelling out a rose, though I am innocent of all desire to monopolize the flower. Be this as it may, the noble lord has now not a friend in the House of Commons."

"There does not seem the same absolute confidence among the Conservatives (says the above-mentioned writer of the *Birmingham Post*) that the member for South Paddington is 'smashed, destroyed, and pulverized,' to use Mr. Gladstone's historic description of a former encounter of his own with Lord Randolph, as there was in the heat and excitement of Tuesday night. The feeling on the Tory side continues to be very bitter, but the reaction from yesterday's hurly-burly may account for its less pronounced utterance to-day."

The London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* believes that the policy of the Tories will be to make things so unpleasant that the noble lord will have to cross the floor of the House. The first step towards this end will be to stir up his constituents. A movement has already been begun, inspired from the headquarters of the Tory party, for calling him to account.

Mr. Jennings, M.P., has not yet got over Lord Randolph's action on Tuesday evening. In his paper, the *Herald*, he says:—As for the totally unaccountable course pursued by Lord Randolph Churchill, his enemies will naturally say that it is of a piece with the rest of his life, while his friends must feel that it is hopeless to conjecture at any moment what he will do next. To promote an amendment in the first instance, then to do everything that was possible to perplex and embarrass the mover of it, and finally to come down to the House on Tuesday determined to pursue a course which should throw the mover off the track altogether, and bring confusion upon the entire night's proceedings—all this might be amusing if Parliament consisted of schoolboys; but to men who take a serious view of politics it must necessarily seem wretched and contemptible work. The policy of tricks and surprises may sometimes be excusable, but when it is accompanied with what looks very like bad faith, it can only recoil on the head of its inventor. Like a mischievous boy who throws his squib into a room, Lord Randolph Churchill has had his "fun." Those who are familiar with all the circumstances attending his freak will not have their opinion raised of the noble lord's character or his judgment.

Lord Randolph had a Barry,
Where is dat Barry now?
Where is die leedle curl on der Kopf
Das einmal decked his prow?

Where is die pootiful dream of days
When everyings would come right?—
All gone away, like der Pigott Kerl,
Away in die Evigkeit!

REPORTED RESIGNATION OF SIR GEORGE ELLIOT.

Sir George Elliot, member for Monmouth district, is reported to have placed his resignation in the hands of the Government Whip.

AN EIGHT HOURS LABOUR DAY.

The crusade in favour of eight hours' labour per day will presently be carried in a new direction. The London and North Western Railway Company have a bill before the House of Commons awaiting second reading. When that stage is reached Mr. Cuninghame Graham intends to move an Instruction to the Committee to insert a clause limiting the hours of labour to eight per day, but not to exclude working in shifts of eight hours.

RAILWAY RATES INQUIRY.

The Railway Rates 'Inquiry was resumed this morning before Lord Balfour of Burleigh and Mr. Courtenay Boyle, at the Westminster Town Hall. Lord Balfour announced that the court would sit for discussing qualification on April 10. Mr. Balfour Browne stated that the Lancashire and Cheshire Conference, while it would not attempt to prevent individuals from appearing, would not take part in the discussion. Mr. Basil James gave evidence on behalf of the associated traders in South Wales.

THE FRENCH EXHIBITION AT EARL'S COURT.

At an important meeting of representative French manufacturers held yesterday at the Hôtel Continental, Paris, under the presidency of Mr. Gustave Landon, the final details connected with the forthcoming French Exhibition at Earl's-court, London, were fully discussed and settled. Mr. John R. Whitley, who was present, was exceedingly pleased with the energetic and enthusiastic co-operation he has found amongst his French colleagues. There is no doubt the exhibition will be thoroughly national and representative.

THE NEW BISHOP OF DURHAM.

After an unusually long interval, which has led to a good deal of comment and conjecture, the vacant See of Durham has been filled by the nomination of Canon Westcott, D.D. Dr. Westcott stood with Dr. Lightfoot at the very head of that Cambridge school of divinity which, according to the testimony of eminent persons trained in very different traditions, has successfully encountered on its own ground the disintegrating assaults of the Tübingen critics. Those who know him best believe that, apart from the vast resources of his learning, he possesses many of the gifts which, even in these days, might make the influence of a great bishop a power not only in the Church but in the State. The income of the bishopric is £8,000, and the Bishop of Durham ranks, with the Bishops of London and Winchester, immediately after the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and takes, like them, his seat in the House of Lords as a matter, without waiting for his turn, like the rest of his brethren, in the order of his appointment.

THE NEW BISHOP.

Dr. Westcott's career at Cambridge, where he took his degree in 1848, at the age of twenty-three, was highly distinguished; he was bracketed Senior Classic with Dr. Scott, late headmaster of Westminster School, was second Chancellor's medalist, and was twenty-third Wrangler. He was not long afterwards elected to a fellowship at Trinity College, and, a little later, became an assistant master at Harrow, where he remained for more than sixteen years. In 1870 he was appointed Regius Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, and he was one of the members of the "New Testament Company" of the revisers of the Authorized Version of the Bible. During all this time he was amassing his stores of Biblical knowledge, and published a large number of controversial and other works. In conjunction with Dr. Hort he produced an edition of the Greek Testament, which has a great reputation among scholars. Dr. Lightfoot was induced to write and publish his celebrated reply to the author of "Supernatural Religion" because he found that in that work "a cruel and unjustifiable assault was made on a very dear friend, to whom I was attached by the most sacred personal and theological ties." That friend was Dr. Westcott. It is well known that Dr. Westcott, though reserved and retiring, as becomes a scholar, is deeply interested in the social questions of our time, as many of his writings have shown, and that he will not deem it right to keep silence upon them either in his diocese or in the House of Lords, may be regarded as certain. Dr. Westcott is sixty-five years of age.

MR. STANLEY AND CAPTAIN NELSON.

The following letter from Mr. Stanley has been received by Captain Nelson Leeds:—

Cairo, 28th Feb., 1890.

My dear Captain Nelson,—I heartily gratulate you upon the pleasant days which have begun to dawn on you in your native county, surrounded by your family and relatives, acquaintances and friends. I hope Yorkshire will do the utmost to show its appreciation of your grand work in Africa, of your steady devotion to the interests of the expedition, and of your strong, sturdy, British manliness of character which, even many days before we arrived on the Congo, so won my heart. Many people have asked me why I did not take the trouble of telling you and my other assistants in our recent enterprise of the feeling of warm friendship that I had for you, and I have replied constantly to all that a man's epitaph cannot be written until he is dead, and the measure of honour to a living one cannot be described until he has completed his task. You have now completed yours to my utmost satisfaction, and I pray that wherever you go you will meet some one who has heard of your brave dealings and your manful endurance, and will join me in saying—"Well done." Until the final parting, my dear Nelson, pray consider me always as your sincere friend, HENRY M. STANLEY.

THE DEATH OF BARON DE JAFFA.—INQUEST.

The sudden death of John Augustus, Baron de Jaffa, a Russian nobleman residing at Croydon, was the subject of inquiry before the Croydon coroner last night. It seems that the deceased suffered from a weak heart, and had several times threatened to take his own life. He died after a few hours' illness, and Dr. Green stated that there could be no suspicion that he had poisoned himself, death being due to syncope. A verdict was returned accordingly.

RELIGIOUS PAPERS ON "UNIVERSITY HALL."

Referring to "University Hall," described in a circular forwarded to us the other day by Mrs. Humphry Ward, the author of "Robert Elsmere," the *Christian World* says:—"We are afraid that no one will join this enterprise who is not already convinced that Jesus was a merely fallible, and sometimes mistaken, teacher; and that the only Christianity now possible is a somewhat vague and shadowy Theism, irradiated by the beauty of His genius and illustrated by the spirit of His life. So far as the Association contemplates practical work in instructing the intellects and quickening the consciences of the necessitous, or in supplying their material wants, it must carry the sympathy of all philanthropic men. In these regions there is abundant room for us all; and though we may doubt whether the success of a gospel so slender is likely to be proportionate to the expectations of its teachers or to the needs of the taught, it cannot be otherwise than interesting to watch the experiment."

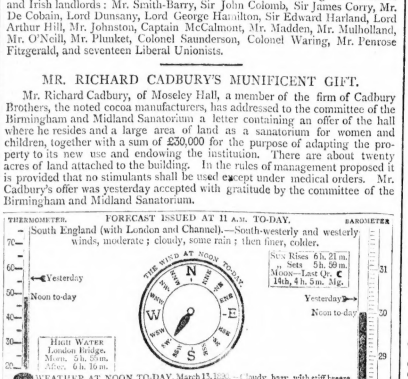
The *Methodist Times* remarks:—"No one can doubt the sincerity and the lofty intellectualism of these New Religionists. We have no doubt that they will do a great deal of excellent intellectual and social work. Will they succeed in redeeming the lives of the poor from misery and helplessness? That is the question. Robert Elsmere omits from his creed everything that has hitherto been regarded as essential to Christianity. Will Robert Elsmere be able to inspire the perfectly new type of Christianity to produce the moral changes and the spiritual results achieved in every age by the Christianity which he has rejected? We shall see. Whatever may be the result, it is eminently satisfactory that the new doctrines are now to be put to the decisive test of experimental verification."

THE DIVISION ON THE TENURE OF LAND (IRELAND) BILL.

In the division yesterday on the second reading of Dr. Commins's Tenure of Land (Ireland) Bill the minority which supported it will was composed of 106 Gladstonian Liberals, including Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Mundella, Sir George Trevelyan, and Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, sixty-six Irish Nationalists, and the following eight Liberal-Unionists: Viscount Ebrington, Messrs. Barclay, J. A. Bright, Caldwell, R. Chamberlain, Lea, T. W. Russell, and W. P. Sinclair; and one Conservative, Mr. F. H. Kerans. The majority which rejected the bill was comprised of 215 Conservatives, including Mr. Balfour, Mr. Hayes Fisher, Mr. Wyndham, and the following Irish members and Irish landlords: Mr. Smith-Barry, Sir John Colomb, Sir James Corry, Mr. De Cobain, Lord Dunsany, Lord George Hamilton, Sir Edward Harland, Lord Arthur Hill, Mr. Johnston, Captain McCalmont, Mr. Madden, Mr. Mulholland, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Plunkett, Colonel Saunderson, Colonel Waring, Mr. Penrose Fitzgerald, and seventeen Liberal Unionists.

MR. RICHARD CADBURY'S MUNIFICENT GIFT.

Mr. Richard Cadbury, of Moseley Hall, a member of the firm of Cadbury Brothers, the noted cocoa manufacturers, has addressed to the committee of the Birmingham and Midland Sanatorium a letter containing an offer of the hall where he resides and a large area of land as a sanatorium for women and children, together with a sum of £30,000 for the purpose of adapting the property to its new use and endowing the institution. There are about twenty acres of land attached to the building. In the rules of management proposed it is provided that no stimulants shall be used except under medical orders. Mr. Cadbury's offer was yesterday accepted with gratitude by the committee of the Birmingham and Midland Sanatorium.


THERMOMETER.
FORECAST ISSUED AT 11 A.M. TO-DAY.
BAROMETER
South England (with London and Channel).—South-westerly and westerly winds, moderate; cloudy, some rain; then finer, colder.
Sun Rises 6h. 21 m.
Sets 5h. 56 m.
Moon—Last Qr. C 14th, 4 h. 5 m. Mg.
Yesterday
Noon to-day
Yesterday
Noon to-day
HIGH WATER
London Bridge.
Morn. 2h. 59 m.
Aftn. 6h. 16 m.
WEATHER AT NOON TO-DAY, March 13.—Cloudy, hazy, with stiff breeze.
Readings by NEGRETTI AND ZAMBRA'S BAROMETER.

THE MONEY MARKET.

One o'clock.

BANK RATE FOUR PER CENT.—NORTH BRITISH DIVIDEND.

MARKETS GENERALLY QUIET.

The directors of the Bank of England at their meeting this morning decided to further reduce the official minimum from 4½ to 4 per cent. The downward movement was not unexpected, although in some quarters it was thought probable that the directors might have delayed action for another week. In the open market rates are somewhat unsettled, but the nominal quotation for discounting three months' bank paper is still about 2⅝ to 3 per cent. Money is rather wanted in connection with the payments on the Stock Exchange, and commands from 3¼ to 3½ per cent.

Stock Exchange operators are busy with the concluding arrangements in connection with the settlement and little fresh business has been entered into. The tone of markets generally is fairly good, and in several directions a slight improvement in prices is shown. Consols are steady without alteration, but in the Home Railway market the movements are irregular. North British description have not been affected to any extent by the dividend declaration, but are firm while on the other hand North Eastern stock has been rather freely offered, and has fallen. Foreign Government securities, both as regards European and Argentine and Buenos Ayres currency issues, are almost lifeless. American Railroads are all higher, the chief advance being in Milwaukee and St. Paul shares. This company has declared a half-yearly dividend of 3½ per cent. on its preferred stock. Advices from the other side state that the absorption of the Burlington and Northern by the Burlington and Quincy is regarded as a practical settlement of the railroad differences in the North-west. Trunks and Mexican Railway issues are steady to firm.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY DIVIDEND.—The directors of this company have declared a dividend on the deferred ordinary stock at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £7,000. A year ago the dividend was 3 per cent.

The net profits of the Mysore Gold Mining Company for the past year amounted to £135,430. The amount paid in dividends has been £76,143, being at the rate of 75 per cent., and £56,805 is carried forward. The sales of gold for the year amounted to 49,749 ounces, realizing £193,535. During the year the reserves in the mine have been increased by 17,500 tons, bringing up the total to 51,000 tons; and the stock of tailings is estimated at 44,000 tons, containing 11,000 ounces of gold. With a view to more active development, the directors propose to increase the capital of the company by an issue of 25,000 shares of £1 each, at a premium of £5 per share.

The list of applications for the issue of 2,500,000 dols. Mexican Government 6 per cent. (silver currency) bonds closed yesterday. The sum applied for in London and Amsterdam exceeded the amount offered.

Another trust will be launched immediately under the title of the British and American Trusts and Finance Corporation (Limited).

Mr. Harry Freebridge Dain has been declared a defaulter on the Stock Exchange.

There was no alteration in prices at the London coal market yesterday.

Dividends:—Brazilian Submarine Telegraph, 3s. per Share (interim) for the past quarter; Direct Spanish Telegraph, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum; Spiers and Pond, 4s. per Share (interim); New York Breweries, at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum (interim); and Val de Travers Asphalte, 10 per share, making with interim dividend 7½ per cent. for 1889.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The market opened quiet with a moderate demand. Probable sales, 7,000 of 8,000 bales. Futures are half a point higher.

TRAFFICS.—Grand Trunk (main line), £1,634 *increase*; (Chicago and Grand Trunk), £13 *increase*; (Detroit section), £244 *increase*; Louisville and Nashville, 8,970 dollars *decrease*.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing:—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Improved:* Sheffield Deferred ⅛, Brighton Deferred, Cale donian, and North Eastern Preference ¼ each. *Receded:* North Eastern ⅜, Hull and Barnsley, North Western, and Midland ⅛.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Advanced:* Argentine Cedulas "B" ¼. *Declined:* Argentine Cedulas "A" ⅛, and Excander ¼.

AMERICAN RAILROADS.—*Rise:* Milwaukee and St. Paul 1¼, Denver Preference ¾, the Ordinary ¼, Norfolk and Western Preference and Union Pacific ⅜, Wabash Preference ¾, the Mortgage ½, Atlantic Firsts ½, Erie shares ⅜, Lake Shore, Louisville and Nashville, and New York Central ⅛ each, and Ontario shares ⅛. *Fallen:* Erie Second Mortgages ⅛.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Higher:* Canadian Pacific ½, Grand Trunk First Preference and Guaranteed ⅛, and the Ordinary 1-16. *Lower:* Nitrate shares ¼, MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Improved:* Eastmans, ¼, De Beers ⅛, and Rio Tinto 1-16. *Receded:* Suez Canal ¼, and Oceana Land ⅛.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.		
Consols (2½) Money	97⅛	⅜
Do. Account	97⅛	⅜
Do. 1903	103⅛	⅛
New 2½ per Cents.	94½	5
Local Loans Stock	102¾	¾
India 3½ per Cents.	107	8
Do. 4½ p. c. Do.	71¾	¾xd
Egyptian Guar. ..	100	1
Bk. of England St.	338	7
Met. Ry. Wks. 5½ p. c.	112	12
Do. 3 p. c. Stock	102	⅞
Birmgham 3½ p. c.	110	11
Leeds 4 per cent. ..	115	16
Liverpool 3½ p. c.	112	⅜
Manchester 4 p. c.	126	8
COLONIAL SECURITIES.		
Canada 4 p. c. Reg.	107	9
Canada 3 p. c. Reg.	95½	6½
Cape 4 p. c. Cons. Ins	110½	11½
Ceylon 4 p. c. Ins.	110½	11½
Mauritius 4 p. c. Ins.	107	8
Natal 4 p. c. C1937	109	10
N.S. Wales Ins 1933	115	16
Do. 1924	102½	3½
New Zind 4 p. c. Cons.	107½	8½
Queensland 4 p. c. Ins.	110	11
S. Austln. 4 p. c. Ins.	103½	4½
Victoria 4 p. c. of 1885	111½	12½
W. Australia 4 p. c. Ins.	109	11
FOREIGN STOCKS.		
Argentn 4½ p. c. 1888	70½	7
Do. 5½ p. c. Funds	89½	60½
Do. Cedulas "A"	43	5
Do. " B....	40	½
Austrian Gold	95	5
" Silver	79	7
Brazilian 4½ p. c. 1889..	68	7
Do. 1889 (fully pd)	76¼	¾
Do. " (partly pd)	12	11 ex
B. Ayres 6 p. c. Gold	104½	100½
" Cedulas "I"	32	5
" " "J"	30	1
Bulgarian	93½	90
Chilian 4½ p. c. 1892	103	4
Costa Rica A.....	90	2
" B.....	87	9
Ecuador, New	23½	5
Egypt. Sinking Funds	103¼	4¾
Do. Unified	94¾	⅜
Egypt. Preference..	104½	½
Do. Dstrs Sanitn	96¾	⅜
French 3 p. c. Rentes	87⅝	¾
Do. 4½ p. c. Rentes	104	¾
Greek 5 p. c. 1881-4	90¾	¾
Do. 6 p. c. 1887 ..	90¾	¾
Hung. Gold Rentes	86¾	⅜
Italian.....	91 9/16	11/16
Mexican 6 p. c. 1888	98¾	¾
Peruvian 5 p. c. 1872	34¼	17
Do. 5 p. c.	20	¼
Portuguese.....	63	¼
Russian 4 p. c. 1889	94¼	¾
Spanish 4 p. c.	73¼	⅜
Turkish, 1854.....	102	4
Conv. A	39½	40 xd
Do. B	39½	40 xd
Do. D	17⅛	18 xd
4½ p. c. 1891	97¾	8¼
5 p. c. Defence ..	102⅜	5
5 p. c. Priority ..	97	9
Uruguay Unified ..	72¾	3¼
Do. 6 p. c. 1888 ..	85½	6
Virginia Funded ..	45½	6½
U.S. 4½ p. c.	109	9
BRITISH RAILWAYS.		
Brighton Ordinary	154	6
Do. A	159½	¾
Chatham Ordinary	23½	⅜
Do. Preference	109½	¾
Caledonian	123½	¾
Great Eastern	84½	¾
Great Northern ..	120	2
Do. A	102¾	⅜
Great Western	161½	3½
Hull and Barnsley..	37½	¾
Lanc. and Yorks ..	136	¾
North Western	176	¾
South Western	154	5
Manch. and Shef..	88	9
Do. A	46½	⅜
Metro. Consolidated	75⅜	6
Do. District ..	29½	30½
Midland	141⅞	2½
North Brit. Ordinary	70¾	¾
Do. Def.	61⅜	⅜
North Eastern	164¾	⅞
North Staffords ..	115	½
South Eastern	129	31
Do. Deferred..	102⅜	3½
Taff Vale	76	9
FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		
Canada Pacific.....	75¾	¾
Do. Pacific Shares	33½	¾
Chic. Mil. and St. Pl	71¾	¾
Denver & R. Grande	15	¾
Do. Preference	40½	9
Illinois Central ..	117	18
Lake Shore	109½	10
Louis & Nash	87¾	⅛
Miss. Kan. & Texas	10¾	11¾
N.Y. Central 1st ..	109¾	11¾
New York Ontario	18½	⅜
N. Y. Erie Shares	26½	⅞
Do. Second Mort.	101	⅜
Norfolk & West. A	65¼	⅜
N.Y., P. & O. 1st M	34½	⅜
North Pacific Pref.	75	6 xd
Ohio & Mississippi	21	½
Pennsylvania Sh. ..	55½	⅜
Phil & Read Sh. ..	19½	20½
Union Pacific Sh ..	66	⅛
Wabash Preference	39½	¾
Do. Gen. Mort.	60	1
Grand Trunk Ord..	10¼	⅜
Do. First Pref..	73½	⅜
Do. Second Pref.	49¼	¾
Do. Third Pref.	27½	¾
Do. Guaranteed..	77¼	¼
Mexican Ordinary	27	¼
Do. First Pref....	57½	¼
Ob. do. 2nd Pref.	42¾	3
Mexican Central ..	7¼	2¾
Mexican National	18	⅞
Lombard's Nat. Gas	11 9/16	11/16
Nitrate Railway ..	16	½
Taltal	4½	5
B. Ayres & Rosario	163	7
Do. Great Southern	138	9
Central Argentine..	163	7
S. Paulo (Braz.) ..	44	6
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank	141½	15½
City Bank	262½	3½
Colonial	92	4
Consolidated Bank	8¾	¾
Imperial	19½	20½
Imperial Ottoman..	11½	¾
London and Country	82	90
Lloyds	27	8
Lon. and Westmin.	70	1
London Joint Stock	92	4
Nat. Prov. of Eng.	15½	7½
Provincial of Ireland	24	5
Stand. Bk. of S. A.	65½	6½
Union of London ..	41	2
National Discount	11½	12
TRUSTS.		
Fn. & Cl. Gov. Dt.	135	8
Gov. Stk. Invst. Dt.	110	14
Lon. and N.Y. Inv.	6¾	7½
Stock Conversion..	1½	⅜
South African Gold	2½	⅜
Trus., Ex., & Sec.	6½	7
MINING & LAND.		
Indian Con. Gold	2/5	3/0
Mysore Gold	6¾	⅛
Oregum Gold	2¼	⅜
Cape Copper	13½	¾
Wanaqua	1⅞	2
Mason & Barry....	5/0	5/6
Rio Tinto	15 9/16	11/16
Tharsis	4½	¾
Montana	1¾	⅜
De Beers	16¾	⅞
Griqualand West ..	8¾	6
New Jagersfontein.	12¾	⅜
Rand Central	2¾	⅛
Jumper's Gold	7¾	⅜
Jubilee.....	5	¼
Bolokoss	2½	¾
Salisbury.....	3	¼
Sutherland Reef ..	4	½
S. Afcn. Exploratn	19¼	19½
Do. New	1/0	1/3pm
G. F. of Sth. Afrca	6¾	¼
Exploring Co.	15	17
Oceana Land.....	9½	⅜
Southern Land	1	⅛
Transvaal Land	⅞	¾ pm
TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE		
Anglo-American ..	49	50
Do. Preferred ..	85	4
Brazilian Submarine	12⅜	¾
Direct United States	10	¼
Eastern	113⅜	14¼
Do. Extension ..	13⅜	14
Globe Telg. Trust	8⅜	⅝
National Telephone	8¾	¾
OMNIBUS AND TRAM		
Lon. Gen. Om.	180	90
London Road Car..	3	¾
London Street	11⅜	12¾
London Tramways.	14⅜	15¾
North Metropolitan	13¾	¾
WATERWORKS.		
Chelsea Waterwks.	260	⅝
East London	153	½
Grand Junction	122	7
Kent.....	271	4
Lambeth	254	⅜
New River, New ..	260	⅜
Sthwrk & Vxhall..	161	9
Tarapaca	9⅛	10
West Middlesex ..	260	⅝
GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT		
Gaslight & Coke A	249	52
Imp. Continental..	216	19
South Metropolitan	239	½
Do. B	224	¾
Do. C	230	40
London Electric ..	2⅞	⅜
Metrpitan Electric	6¼	¼
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alloupp's.....	7	⅜
Bell's Asbestos....	12¾	⅜
Guinness and Co...	340	⅜
Hotchkiss	6½	⅛
Maxim-Nordenfelt..	2¾	⅛
Pigott and May ..	13½	¾
Eastman's Ord	16¾	17
Elmore's Copper, &c	6½	¾
Spratt's Patent	7¾	¼
Liverpool Nitrate..	11	15
Colorado Nitrate..	3¾	4½
Primitiva Nitrate..	14	⅞
Rosario	3	4
San Paulo	8½	4
San Jorge	8¾	6⅝
San Donato	2½	3
Tamargual.....	2	⅝
Salt Union Shares	113½	12
P.and O. Steam Def.	193	9
Royal Mail Steam	71	4
Hudson's Bay	20	⅝
Suez Canal	80¾	1½
E. & W. India Docks	16	18
Lon. & St. K. Dock	83	4

"Pall Mall Gazette" Office.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Whatever may be thought of the selection of Sir John Gorst and Sir W. Houldsworth as representatives of England at the Labour Conference, there will be no two opinions amongst the friends of labour as to the fitness of Mr. Burnett and Mr. David Dale. First, as the leader of the historic nine-hours strike, next as the secretary of that great organization the Amalgamated Engineers, and, finally, as the secretary of our National Labour Bureau, Mr. Burnett's position at the Berlin Conference will be absolutely unique. Moreover Mr. Burnett is one of the best read and most widely-informed men whom it is possible to meet with in his class; and is probably the finest all-round representative artisan whom Britain possesses.

⁂

Mr. David Dale is not so well known, but he will be as a tower of strength to the cause of industrial peace and conciliation. Mr. Dale, who is a Scotchman, and began his career, it is said, as a tutor, is now the working head of the great firm of the Peases, of which Sir Joseph Pease is the Society's representative, and is universally respected throughout the whole North country. Mr. David Dale is an able, clear-headed shrewd business man. He has repeatedly been offered a seat for one or other of the South Durham constituencies, but a binding arrangement with his firm, which could not spare any more of its members to the service of the State, has effectually prevented his acceptance of any of these offers. As president of the Board of Arbitration and Conciliation in the North-country iron trade Mr. Dale cannot fail to bring to the Conference great influence for good in all Labour conflicts throughout the Continent.

⁂

Lord Randolph Churchill has, it seems, at any rate one friend in the London Tory press. So at least one must suppose from the very extraordinary *volte-face* which took place in the *Evening News* during yesterday. In the earlier editions of that journal a leading article appeared entitled "A Night of Surprises," and treating Lord Randolph—not, indeed, with the savagery of the *Standard*—but still with a decidedly chastening hand. In the later editions of the paper this article disappeared, its place being taken by some "padding" on things in general. What is the explanation? Does Lord Randolph owe the mercy thus tardily shown him to the direct intervention of his friend Mr. Harry Marks?

⁂

Among other things in which the new Bishop of Durham will undoubtedly carry on the traditions of his predecessor, university extension must be given a leading place. Dr. Westcott has from the first been one of the warmest friends of this movement, to which he has lent his active help on very many occasions both at Cambridge and in London. The "extenders" in the North of England will find in Bishop Westcott an even better friend, if possible, than was Bishop Lightfoot.

⁂

The village of Taibach, now plunged into mourning by the terrible loss of life resulting from the Morfa Colliery explosion, is a small suburb in the vicinity of Margam, the seat of the lately deceased "Father of the House," Mr. Talbot. Dotted with many miners' cottages, the hamlet bears out its appellation, which means literally "small houses," and the smoky surroundings at once indicate the chief industry of the village. Though a little note in itself, Taibach, together with the town of Aberavon, form part of Margam parish, with its venerable Abbey, originally founded by Robert Earl of Gloucester. Close by may be found numerous ancient stones of a period prior to the Roman epoch, while cross crosses, effigies, and gravestones abounding in the vicinity have puzzled many an antiquarian.

⁂

A man with a remarkable record has just died in Albury, the town designated by Sir Hercules Robinson as the future federal capital of Australia. The Rev. Canon Acocks was born in London in 1837, enlisted in his seventeenth year, joined the 8th Hussars, was subsequently transferred to the 48th Foot, was drafted to the Crimea, and for fifteen months performed arduous duties in the trenches before Sebastopol, was ordered to India at the outbreak of the Mutiny, served with the Calpee field force, was promoted to the rank of colour-sergeant, and eventually placed on the staff as paymaster-sergeant. He left the army in 1864, entered Bishop's College, and was ordained by the Bishop of Calcutta. Emigrating to Australia, he was appointed incumbent of St. Matthew's, Albury, and ever since the soldier-cleric has resided in that town, where his popularity was general. He was accorded a military funeral.

⁂

Some people have an extraordinary notion of what a court of justice is designed for. The other day at Greenwich a man was summoned for assaulting his wife. "Your worship," said the hapless defendant in a blood-curdling stage whisper, "would you like to hear a tale of misery?" Mr. Marsham had no particular desire to listen, but the man proceeded in declamatory tones to deliver a carefully-prepared speech on the chunk of bacon and big hare which he had purchased for a recent Sunday dinner. Serjeant Burbu would have done justice to the oration.

⁂

Every Lancashire man, at least every one with an eye for the picturesque, knows the queer old church of Church Kirk, in the parish of Whalley, of which the father of Reginald Birchall, the alleged murderer of Benwell in Canada, was rector. Whalley was described, by name, in Harrison Ainsworth's "Lancashire Witches;" and close to it is the famous Hill of Pendle, from which the witches used to start on their flights through the air. Whalley is the centre of one of the most beautiful parts of Lancashire, which, in spite of its gloomy towns, still boasts many lovely stretches of scenery. Birchall's father combined preaching with brewing, and left the young man a considerable fortune, which he seems to have dissipated very rapidly.

⁂

Mr. Henry George, who has just arrived in Australia on a lecturing tour, is accompanied by his wife, who is a native of Sydney. Mr. George has left his New York paper—the *Standard*—in charge of Mr. Croasdale and Mr. Henry George, jun. Mr. Croasdale is one of Mr. George's old supporters, most of whom have left him. Dr. McGlynn, once Mr. George's companion in the fight, left because Mr. George supported the Democratic party instead of remaining independent, and now runs the Anti-Poverty Society. The Rev. Hugh O. Pentecost, another of Mr. George's most powerful supporters on the platform and in the press, has now a paper of his own—the *Twentieth Century*—and, with the assistance of some former members of the *Standard* staff, denounces George as a traitor to the cause.

⁂

But Mr. George has not retrograded. He has trimmed considerably, but he was always, to a great extent, anti-Socialistic. Although the Socialists swallowed his powerful indictment against society as it is, and made an idol of him before they discovered it, Mr. George has trimmed his sails to suit the prevailing current of events, and forms the advanced outpost of the democratic party. He would not poll so many votes in New York now as he did in 1886, but he is a greater power in the country. His popularity and power rise through ballot reform, tariff reform, free-trade, to single tax—the name by which his land scheme is now known.

⁂

Mr. George goes to Australia, not to promulgate single tax, but to advocate free trade—although he always manages to work the one into the other. He was invited there by the free traders of New South Wales. The Australians have been looking after land values without Mr. George's assistance. A few months ago the Municipal Associations of New South Wales decided at a convention that all taxes for municipal purposes should be raised from "land only," and when a deputation asked the Government to keep this in view in the new Local Government Act, Sir Henry Parkes replied that he did not see why cities should not be granted full power with regard to local taxation. Mr. George during his tour will send letters to his paper, as he thinks that Americans might profitably learn from the younger democracies of Australasia.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."—Clarke's world-famed Blood Mixture is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities, from whatever cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, skin and blood diseases, and sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. Thousands of testimonials. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each of all Chemists. Proprietors, Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company Lincoln. Ask for Clarke's Blood Mixture, and do not be persuaded to take imitations.

THE KING OF DAHOMEY AND THE CUIRASS.

AN OLD STORY IN A NEW SETTING.

In view of the contemplated hostilities in Dahomey, the circumstances of the Ashanti expedition sixteen years ago have suddenly become invested with profound interest for the French. It will be interesting later on to compare the two achievements. At present the French cite Lord Wolseley's conduct of that campaign with as much respect as they speak slightingly of Tel-el-Kebir. It is generally known that Glé-Glé, the Dahomeyan monarch, was at one time with his brother a pupil at the Marseilles Lycée. Glé-Glé has nevertheless ruled in rigid accordance with the traditions of his country. An anecdote is told of one of his predecessors upon the throne, who dealt for some time with a firm of Marseilles merchants. The agent of the firm had chosen, among other objects taken with him for exchange in Dahomey, several small picture-books of the kind manufactured at Epinal—analogous, that is, to the cheap representations of the Lord Mayor's show annually hawked in the London streets—and for some of these, depicting the various French regiments over a length of two yards, the King expressed great admiration. The regiment of the Cuirassiers excited his particular curiosity, and after having questioned the agent upon the utility of the breastplate, his Majesty requested that a dozen cuirassiers should be forthwith consigned to him. It was not the practice of his Government to export those individuals, explained the agent, but the Marseilles firm would be able to send him as many of the cuirasses as he might wish. A bargain was struck, and the articles arrived before the agent had definitively taken his departure. Unfortunately, the agent had to a considerable extent exaggerated the value of the breast-plate as an implement of defence, and, desirous of confuting him, the King ordered a public experiment at which the white man was to "attend." The "blanc" had asseverated that the shining breast-plates made by his firm would resist not merely spears, but bullets and cannon balls. The King accordingly directed that his Prime Minister should be encased in the partial armour, and that the Royal cannon should be discharged at him. Neither the cuirass nor the Minister resisted the projectile, as may be imagined; but the agent, who had learned that the victim had latterly rendered himself obnoxious, comforted himself with thoughts of an easy succession. If not of reward. The King, however, at once furnished a demand for an indemnity, rating the value of his Minister highly. The incident dates back to the reign of Louis Philippe, and those who tell the story say that a sum of 12,000 francs was actually paid by the French Government.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR AND PRINCE BISMARCK.

That the Kaiser sees fit at this moment to give the high decoration of the Black Eagle to Von Boetticher, Bismarck's right hand man, is considered proof positive in Berlin that the Emperor and the Chancellor are now in perfect accord.

LISTS OF MEMBERS OF ALL THE PARLIAMENTS.

After many years, the highly-interesting Blue-books containing lists, as far as can be discovered, of the members of all the Parliaments of England are to be completed. The original order for their compilation was made in 1878, and in the next year the first volume, covering the period to the union with Scotland, was issued. Some time later was published the second, bringing the work to the Parliament of 1874, and about two years ago came out a full index to the first volume, with some supplementary lists that had in the meantime been discovered in the Record Office, or by the Royal Historical Manuscripts Commission. The Government will now move for the concluding portion of the index, together with a list of the members of the 1880 Parliament; but it is difficult to see why the "short Parliament" of 1885 should not be incluned, even if it is not thought advisable to bring the work absolutely up to date by the addition of a list of the existing House of Commons.

THE BISHOP OF BANGOR'S RESIGNATION.

The *North Wales Observer and Express* is authoritatively informed that the Bishop of Bangor will defer the formal resignation of his see until a settlement has been arrived at in the action brought by his lordship against the Rev. J. Williams-Meyrick, of Beaumaris.

A TORY NOTE OF WARNING.

Speaking at Croydon last night, Mr. Sidney Herbert, Junior Lord of the Treasury, after criticising Mr. Fowler's speech at the Eighty Club dinner on Tuesday night, exhorted Conservatives to prepare for a fight, for a general election must come soon.

ABOUT THE O'GORMAN MAHON.

The O'Gorman Mahon, who turned up in the House of Commons on Wednesday morning to vote in the division on Mr. Gladstone's amendment to Mr. Smith's resolution on the Commissioners' Report, was not well enough to put in an appearance in the House of Commons on Wednesday night, as he had intended. The old warrior had promised (the London correspondent of the *Liverpool Post* writes) to make a few remarks at the close of Monday night's debate. They were to have been very brief, just indicating the pleasure which he at the close of a long and eventful life saw the dawn of a better day for Ireland. But when the opportunity came he was found not equal to it, and was content with giving a silent vote. Wednesday is his birthday, the date being about the only arithmetical fact in connection with it that is well authenticated. The O'Gorman Mahon himself says he has had time to forget how old he is. Some of his friends who have gone into the matter have by a process of induction arrived at the conclusion that he is between eighty-seven and ninety. Even now, though much broken down since he was accustomed to put in a nightly appearance at the House, he is a notable figure—tall, rugged, ruddy in countenance, and with a great shock of white hair. He issued invitations to some of his friends among the Irish party, asking them to dine with him. This has been his custom for several years, the 12th of March being always kept free for the birthday dinner. Those going to it have the sad feeling that in all probability it will be the last occasion on which they will have the opportunity of wishing the old man many happy returns of the day. The O'Gorman Mahon was getting on in years when Thackeray knew him and took him as the model for one of his most amusing characters.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

Mr. Gladstone is said to be immensely gratified with the recent progress of political events, and thinks the Irish claim has made more progress in the last month than its friends could have expected. Both inside and outside Parliament this progress has, in the opinion of the Oldest Parliamentary hand, been very evident. The Government have now done, and done handsomely, with the Report of the Special Commission, and the document, together with their handling of it, has added greatly to the popularity of Mr. Parnell and the Irish members who were accused with him. The business of the session, from no fault of the Opposition, is in almost unprecedented arrear and confusion. By no possible feats of management can the Government repair the consequences to their bills of the late commencement of the session.

REFORM OF PROCEDURE OF THE HOUSE.

The count-out of Friday last has given rise to various suggestions for the improvement of the procedure of the House of Commons, and it is stated that Mr. Leake will on Friday ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, considering the increasing difficulty of securing a quorum of the House during the dinner hour, he will propose a modification of the rules of procedure, providing for the adjournment of the House on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M., as unanimously recommended by the Select Committee on Procedure, 1886, or from 7.30 P.M. to 9.30 P.M., as would probably be more convenient to members and more conducive to the effective conduct of the business of the House.

RUINING THE KENTISH BRICK TRADE.

Large quantities of bricks from the North of England are daily coming into the London market during the block in the Kentish brick trade, and it is feared that this branch of the Kentish trade will be ruined unless the lock-out terminates very shortly.

ANOTHER UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT IN LONDON.

Plans are being made for another Oxford University settlement in East London, this time in connection with a Congregational church. Canning Town will probably be the scene of operations, and a minister of the Congregational church there, the Rev. F. Newland, who is an Oxford man, will be associated with the movement. Mansfield College will, of course, contribute to this Congregational university settlement, which is likely to become an important part of that denomination's "forward movement."—London correspondent *Manchester Examiner*.

Bord's Pianos.—25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15s. per month (Second-hand 10s. 6d. per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 48, SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO AIX-LES-BAINS.

The Queen will take to Aix-les-Bains this year a more numerous suite than has hitherto accompanied her Majesty on her visits to the Continent. The Indian attendants who have recently been attached to the Queen's household will for the first time accompany her abroad. Four carriages and a stud of twenty horses will also be taken.

THE FRENCH TO OCCUPY WHYDAH.

The *Dix-Neuvième Siècle* this morning states that in consequence of a report received from Governor Bayol the occupation of Whydah has been decided upon by the French Government.—*Reuter.*

ANOTHER WOMEN'S CRUSADE AGAINST DRINK.

In Missouri a number of women have taken the law into their own hands, entered into saloons illegally opened, spilled the liquor into the street, and destroyed the bars and other appliances. They are on the whole condemned by the religious press, and the crusade is contrasted with the similar movement in Ohio some years ago, where moral and spiritual influence alone was used.

CANON WILBERFORCE IN INDIA.

Canon Wilberforce is drawing large audiences in India, and is reported as in splendid form. He says that "the splendid oxygen of your beautiful winter climate" has completely restored his health, and thinks that out of the chaos of peoples and languages in India "a mighty nation is bounding into form." He says that there is no sex in citizenship, and that India should develop the intelligence of her women. "No nation can possibly attain strength that is afraid to educate its women."

MR. HERMAN MERIVALE'S NEW PLAY.

The new play by Mr. Herman Merivale with which Mr. Irving will reopen the Lyceum in the autumn is to be called "The Master of Ravenswood," and will be founded, of course, upon Scott's famous story. The cast will include several new comers to the Lyceum Company, notably Mr. Macklin, Mr. Macintosh, and Mr. Alfred Bishop. Miss Ellen Terry, her son, Mr. Gordon Craig, Mrs. Carter, and Miss Marriott will also be included in a remarkably strong combination.—*Manchester Guardian.*

THE LATE DR. DELITZSCH.

The particulars of Dr. Delitzsch's illness are (says the *British Weekly*) very touching. He lost the use of his lower limbs, but had a small class of students round his bed as long as his strength allowed. His successor will be Dr. Bühl, of Copenhagen, well known to scholars in this country by many excellent works.

THE GREAT STRIKES OF THE LAST SEVEN MONTHS.

Mr. Burnett, chief of the new Labour Department of the Board of Trade, has for some time been engaged upon a report of the great strikes of the last seven months, and the statistics it will contain will be of the greatest interest. Mr. Burnett has had considerable assistance from the trades unions. A great number of strikes followed on the dock labourers' strike, and the probability that these disputes have by no means ended is shown by the circumstance that on the last day of February seventy-eight strikes in different departments of labour were going on in Great Britain.

SIR E. HAY CURRIE ON PROVIDENT HOSPITALS.

The large number of men and women who may be classed as improper patients of the hospitals have brought upon themselves their own punishment. Outcries against middle-class people who in illness naturally fly to a charitable institution are too loud and long, and the effect upon the hospitals has been a decrease in subscriptions. Sir Edmund Hay Currie last night read a paper at Westminster describing the system adopted as a remedy at the Metropolitan Hospital in the Kingsland-road. The out-patient department there was formed into a provident dispensary some months ago. It was determined to ask those living in the neighbourhood, who are too poor to pay for proper medical attendance, to contribute a fourpence a month to the hospital during both health and sickness, and for this small sum they receive medicine and advice, either at the hospital, or in their own homes if they are very ill. In addition an entrance fee of sixpence is charged, and whenever medicine is made up for them they pay an extra penny. Only those earning less than 25s. a week, or in the case of single men 21s. a week, are entitled to benefit by this provident fund. Sir Edmund and all who know its working are very pleased with the result of the scheme, which, as the lecturer said, has tended to reduce the number of "doctors' shops" where the vile and poisonous mixtures miscalled medicine were sold.

PRESBYTERIANS AND INFANT BAPTISM.

The North London Presbytery appeared to be in its happiest vein on Tuesday, and some lively incidents occurred during the evening. Mr. Meharry was in his best fighting mood on the baptismal question, and returned to the attack again and again, as if determined not to desist until he had laid all his assailants low. He maintained that every person baptized into the Church becomes thereby a member of the Church, and therefore entitled to baptism for his children, whether he be a member in full communion or otherwise. Let him be dealt with for that by itself, but the Church has no right on that account to deprive him of the privilege of baptism for his children. Great laughter was caused when Dr. Morison, who was very reluctant to accept the motion, submitted to the Presbytery with solemn emphasis, that "We are all in considerable darkness on this question."—*British Weekly.*

BRITISH COALING STATIONS.

Last night, at the annual meeting of the Hampstead branch of the Imperial Federation League, held at the West Hampstead Town-hall, Sir Richard Temple, who is the president of the branch, delivered an address on "The Coaling Stations of the British Empire." He contended that the question of the efficiency of the British coaling stations was at the basis of the whole question of Imperial federation, inasmuch as the preservation of our colonial Empire depended on our maritime supremacy. After enumerating and describing various stations and advocating the establishment of an additional station in the Fanning Islands in the Pacific, he said that the cost of putting all into a proper state of defence would be only about one million sterling. He expected that within a year and a half the whole would be armed with the most powerful artillery known to modern science.

Sir Charles Russell has accepted a brief for Mr. John Lobb in his action for slander against Mr. Lyulph Stanley.

A new cavalry sabre has been adopted by the French War Office. It is said to be slightly longer than the German sabre.

A Berlin correspondent says the Geographical Society there is making arrangements for the reception of Mr. Stanley about two months hence.

Mdme. Patti will leave New York for England on April 23. After a brief rest at Craig-y-nos, she will sing at concerts both in London and the provinces. Her tour in America has been very successful.

At a meeting of Metropolitan Congregational ministers, held last night at Memorial Hall, a resolution was adopted in support of the endeavour of the London County Council to control and purify the music-halls.

The political economy circle which meets at the National Liberal Club is about to publish a series of "index leaflets." Each leaflet will deal with some economic questions, and will give a complete list of references to all literature bearing upon the subject.

M. Mayer has engaged the whole of the Porte St. Martin Theatre Company to support Mdme. Sarah Bernhardt when she appears in London in "Jeane d'Arc." The representation, in fact, both as to cast and *mise-en-scène*, will be precisely the same as in Paris.

A Bengal correspondent states that on February 4 Mr. W. B. Savi, officiating superintendent of Dacca Kheddahs, effected a very successful capture of a herd of forty-seven elephants in a single drive at Chirangiri, in the Garo Hills. This makes nearly a hundred and fifty elephants caught by this skilful operator during two months.

Mr. Ritchie, the President of the Local Government Board, has declined to nominate one of his officials to preside over the inquiry recently ordered by the London City Corporation into the question of water supply and the water companies. The City Remembrancer is consequently negotiating on behalf of the Corporation with a professional arbitrator of high standing, who has been asked to conduct the inquiry.

It had been arranged that the special committee of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, to which has been delegated the duty of investigating the charges with regard to Indian missions, which were made last year by the *Methodist Times*, should meet on the 9th of April. The date of meeting, however, has been altered to the 24th of that month, when it is expected that Messrs. Patterson and Findlay, the delegates from Madras, will be present to lay their views before the committee. The inquiry will extend over two days.

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CALM AFTER STORM.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS YESTERDAY.

THE Speaker entered the House at twelve o'clock; the chaplain read prayers, and retired gracefully backwards; and then—nothing. For three-quarters of an hour did a Speaker at £5,000 a year, three clerks at combined salaries amounting to £4,500 a year, and a Serjeant-at-Arms at £1,200 a year, wait patiently for the Commons to assemble. There were also waiting in the gallery two rows of reporters, at salaries not publicly specified, but probably less than those just mentioned. At length a House was made, and was found to consist of some two and a half dozen Irishmen and half a score of Englishmen. The business of the day was the second reading of the Tenure of Land (Ireland) Bill. Dr. Commins opened the debate, and other Irishmen followed. Their speeches were not exciting. Nobody cared—probably not even the speakers themselves—about the details of, or the arguments for, a bill which had no chance of becoming law unless Mr. Balfour should choose to graciously send his consent. As this was improbable, the Irish members on either side of the House entertained or bored one another by quoting lengthy statisics with regard to farm rents in Ireland. Towards four o'clock the Attorney-General for Ireland rose to express Mr. Balfour's decision with regard to the bill. It was "entirely subversive of the rights of property," he stated. Unfortunately, he did not stop there, but proceeded at considerable length todemolish the bill in detail. Meanwhile English and Scotch members, who were slowly gathering in the hope that they might be able to do a little work in the way of legislation, wearily listened. When Mr. Madden sat down, Mr. T. W. Russell startled the House by fiercely attacking the Government for opposing the bill. It was especially on behalf of the leaseholder that the bill was needed in Ireland; and though he did not approve of every detail in it, he would certainly vote for the second reading. "We (Liberal Unionists)," he concluded, "are the allies; we are not the slaves of members opposite." Mr. Healy spoke till within one minute of 5.30, and then Dr. Commins moved the closure. On the division the bill was thrown out by a majority of 52.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON'S STATEMENT.

In his introductory remarks explanatory of the Navy Estimates for 1890-91, the First Lord says:—The estimated expenditure for the year ending March 31, 1891, borne on the annual votes presented to Parliament is £13,786,000, being an increase of £101,200 over the sum voted for the preceding year. This is independent of the expenditure which is to be covered by the £10,000,000 provided in the Naval Defence Act of last session, and which is at the disposal of the Admiralty for the building and equipment of the thirty-two war vessels enumerated in Schedule 1 of the Act, and which are to be completed for sea within five years from the passing of the statute.

THE SHIPBUILDING PROGRAMME.

The programme of shipbuilding shows that the whole of the ships that were ordered and commenced before 1889-90 will be completed during 1890-91, with the exception of the *Blake* and *Blenheim*, thus leaving only the ships of the new programme to be dealt with in 1891-92. Of the thirty-eight vessels of the new programme under the Naval Defence Act, that are to be built in the dockyards, seventy-one have already been commenced, seven more will be commenced in 1890-91, and only ten will be left to commence after March 1891. The design of the second-class battleships has been most thoroughly considered, and is now nearly complete; but as a final decision has not been reached by the Board, any description is not possible at present. Of the thirty-two vessels that have to be built by contract, under the Naval Defence Act, twenty-six were ordered before the close of 1889.

NAVAL ORDNANCE.

Referring to naval ordnance, Lord George Hamilton says during the past year the progress made in the manufacture and supply of guns for the navy has been fairly satisfactory, and the number of new breech-loading guns (excluding small quick-firing and machine guns) completed by the manufacturers for naval service in the year ended December 31, 1889, is 231, as compared with 160 in the year ended December 31, 1888. This total of 231 is made up as follows:—

Nature of Gun.				Number Issued.
16	25-inch of	110 tons	.....	1
13½	,,	67	,, ...	11
12	,,	45	,, ...	1
10	,,	29	,, ...	4
9·2	,,	22	,, ...	10
6	,,	5	,, ...	88
5	,,	40	cwt.	60
4·7	,,	(Quick-firing)	.....	46
4	,,	26	cwt.	69
			Total	281

As regards the sufficiency of naval ordnance stores to meet the requirements of the fleet, it may be mentioned that a considerable addition has been made to the reserve of ammunition, and considering the serious nature of the deficiency which existed when the Admiralty assumed the responsibility for the provision of naval armaments, this fact is creditable to all concerned in bringing up the reserves to their present condition. The following statement shows the number of heavy guns in course of manufacture, distinguishing old and new orders. It may be observed that, if the contract dates for delivery of the guns ordered for the ships included in the new programme are adhered to, the guns will be completed in ample time for the ships requiring them:—

UNCOMPLETED ORDERS FOR HEAVY B.L. GUNS.

Nature of Gun.	Old Orders.	New Orders.	Total.
16.25 inch, 110 tons	3	3	6
13.5 inch, 67 tons	8	40	48
10 inch, 29 tons	5	16	21
9.2 inch, 22 tons	9	28	37
	25	87	112

During the year ended December 31, 1889, 478 Whitehead torpedoes were manufactured and issued for the naval service. To meet the wants of the new programme the output would have to be considerably increased this year. A much more powerful torpedo had been adopted with successful results.

NEW WORKS.

Lord George Hamilton says:—The undermentioned new works have been completed since the date of the last statement: Extension of Haulbowline-yard, new foundry at Chatham Dockyard, torpedo range at Portsmouth, and accommodation for torpedo boats at Gibraltar. During the present financial year the works connected with improved arrangements for coaling at Portsmouth and Portland have been continued; the dredging of the channel in the River Medway is approaching completion, as are also the principal buildings for the naval barracks on Whale Island, which are already occupied by 400 men. The dock subsidized by the Admiralty and built by private enterprise at Halifax is practically completed, and will accommodate any ship at present in the navy. The Admiralty have been carefully considering the provision of a dock at Gibraltar, and had selected a site for it. They have every hope that the dock will soon be undertaken by private enterprise, with help and encouragement from the Imperial Government. Plans for the proposed naval dock at Bombay have been prepared by Sir J. Coode, under instructions from the India Office, but no funds have as yet been allotted for the purpose. The estimate for the new works vote for 1890-91 would have been considerably less than for 1889-90 but the sum of £49,200 has been charged to this vote for storehouses and works constructed mainly by the War Department for naval ordnance stores. This expenditure, over which the Admiralty has little or no control, has raised the total of the estimate to £445,800, but even this is £5,200 less than the estimate for 1889.

OUR SYSTEM OF PREPARATION FOR WAR.

The various returns received during the last year, as well as the reports of inspectors, and the work of the manœuvres, all show that the discipline, efficiency and health of the navy are most satisfactory. The ratios of mortality and sickness are the lowest recorded since 1856. Throughout the year both divisions of the Intelligence Department, as well as the Executive Departments of the Admiralty, have been engaged in improving our system of preparation for war. Some results of the past work of the mobilization scheme were displayed in the assembling of the fleet for the naval inspection of the 5th of August and the subsequent manœuvres. It was decided to commission for the latter fifty vessels, large and small, and thirty-eight torpedo-boats. On the 18th of July, forty-four vessels and the thirty-eight torpedo boats were put in commission. By the 23rd, or within five days, the torpedo boats and thirty-nine vessels, starting from the several naval ports, had actually reached Spithead, where they were shortly after joined by the remainder, and where the Channel First Reserve and training squadrons also assembled. The fleet thus formed comprised seventy-three ships and gunboats, and thirty-eight torpedo-boats, with a complement of more than 22,000 officers and men, of which the number mobilized amounted to nearly 16,000.

THE SUNDAY OPENING OF MUSEUMS.

MR. H. A. JONES ON THE SUNDAY.

St. James's Hall last night was packed from floor to ceiling by an audience eager to show their approval of the opening of national museums and art galleries on Sunday. The meeting was held under the auspices of the National Sunday League, and Mr. Harry Lawson, M.P., its president, occupied the chair. Lord Rosebery sympathized with the movement, but the work of the County Council left him no time for aught else. Other sympathizers who could not be present were Lord Dunraven, Lord Thurlow, Sir C. Russell, Sir John Lubbock, Sir W. Lawson, Mr. Stuart, Mr. Frederic Harrison, Earl Compton, Sir Edmund Currie (of the People's Palace), Rev. Samuel Barnett, Mr. Charles Hunt, M.P., and Lord Randolph Churchill, whose name evoked the loudest cheers of the evening.

The chairman said Sunday was the only day on which workers (in the widest sense of the word) could enjoy museums, libraries, and art galleries. London was now of one mind in regard to Sunday opening, and it was with London that they were concerned. He protested against members of Parliament from far away and alien constituencies trying to cut away from this huge community opportunities for self-culture now provided. Let them have a count of heads in the matter. Sunday labour was a cant parrot cry. (Cheers.) No attendant should be asked to work more than six days a week. Mr. Barnett wrote to him that the number of people who used Toynbee Hall library was greater on Sunday than on any other day. Nobody cared more than their society did for the day of rest, but rest was not lolling or lounging in moody melancholy. They were not shut out from museums by any wish of the officials and governors. Why should the Government block the way? They hadn't a shred of principle on which to rest their Sabbatarian policy. Try the experiment, he said, of Sunday opening. Let them try to make "this City State" somewhat brighter and better. (Loud cheers.)

Sir Henry Roscoe, M.P., asked what could be a more holy way of spending the Sabbath than in viewing the works of Nature, the works which are the handiwork of the Almighty. They wanted to offer to the working class something higher and nobler than the squalor of the streets and the allurements of the gin palace. The Government had full power to open museums without the consent of the House of Commons. Professor Flower, of the South Kensington Museum, had that day told him that the trustees and a majority of the workers were willing that the Museum should be open on Sunday.

Mr. Æneas Smith, L.C.C., held that the question was closely associated with the question of the better housing of the working classes.

That London loves its successful playwrights was shown by the reception given to Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, the author of "The Middleman." Mr. Jones supported a resolution that as the National Museums and Art Galleries at Kew, Hampton Court, Greenwich, and Dublin had been opened by the Government and House of Commons on Sundays for many years past, it was unjust and inconsistent to keep the Museums and Art Galleries in London closed on that day; and the meeting, recognizing the necessity and desirability of Sunday opening, emphatically demanded on behalf of the working classes of the metropolis that these tax-supported institutions should be open on Sunday afternoon, but upon the express condition that no officer should be required to attend more than six days a week. The dramatist, who proclaimed himself a victim to the misery and martyrdom of the English Sunday, showed, before his turn came to speak, that he was a pitiable victim of the Nemesis of nerves. His speech, however, was a treat in its grace of literary form. The plea that the Sunday opening of museums would lead to the opening of theatres on Sunday (he said) showed the poverty of their opponents' case. Mr. Henry Irving had written to him, in answer to a question on the matter, that it was foolish to suppose such opening would lead to the opening of theatres on that day. (Loud cheers.) The speaker's friend Mr. Wilson Barrett had recently refused £200 to play "The Silver King" in Chicago on a Sunday. (Cheers.) Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Hare, Mr. Willard, and other prominent actors had written on the same strain as Mr. Irving. Puritanism had done much for our national character. The greatest of all Puritans, "sacred Milton," would have been on their side. Let their Puritan friends submit to a quarter of an hour's cross-examination on the matter by Sir Charles Russell—(laughter)—or let them cross-examine themselves. Where did we get the modern Sunday from? If from the Jews, then let us carry out all the observances of the Jews; or if we got it from the early Christians, let us do the same. Every flower that bloomed, every song of bird that echoed through the woodland, laughed and mocked at us. (Loud cheers.)

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